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**BERKELEY SPARK TO IGNITE CREATIVITY
Pre-Burning Man Event in Downtown Berkeley
11am-9pm, Saturday August 10, 2013**

(Berkeley, CA) -- Burning Man's energy comes to Downtown Berkeley with a unique arts and music festival. FREE and open to the public - with giant art sculptures, mutant vehicles, great live and DJ'ed music, ecstatic dancing, and interactive workshops.

Experience Burning Man art and mutant vehicles before they head to the Nevada desert: Pongo Lounge's UNAVERZ car, "Arc of Reflection" from Amy Stabler (Burning Man, 2003), live painting from SF Freespace artist Michael Covington, and interactive painting with ArtIsMobilUs. Dance to DJs alongside ecstatic dance and silent disco, listen to local musician Laura Inserra and other local bay area bands. And beginning at 4pm, listen to local DJs streaming live from U.N.A.V.E.R.Z., a mutant vehicle from Richmond, CA. Spark your playa preparations with a number of burn-friendly clothing vendors and accessory designers, lighting specialists and local artists & makers. Refuel during the festival with delicious local food vendors: Phil's Sliders, Taco Oaxaca and Tamales Acapulco. Beginning at 3pm, enjoy local hand-crafted beer from the Drakes Brewing Company and honey wine from The Mead Kitchen.

Artists joining us include Laura Inserra with Samavesha, Zach Pine's Create-With-Nature-Zone, a sculpture by Amy Stabler (Burning Man 2003), interactive art from Felix and his crew from ArtIsMobilUs and live painting by Freespace SF artist Michael Covington.

Dance with Green Space Dance Partners from 10:30am - 4:00pm on the lawn: Barefoot Boogie & DJ Christina Tuccillo, Dance Journey & DJ Baron von Spirit, Ecstatic Dance

Oakland & DJ Neptune, Soul Sanctuary Dance & DJ Daniel Ari & Silent Disco by Silent Storm Sound System.

Inspired by Burning Man's Ten Principles, Berkeley Spark is a place for radical self-expression, inclusivity, transformation and mutual respect. Costumes are encouraged!

Parking is limited - take public transportation, walk, or bike. NOTE: The Berkeley Bike Station on Shattuck Avenue has FREE Valet Bike parking 11am-9pm just for this event!

The Spark will continue after 9pm closing with after-parties at a number of Downtown venues including Revival Bar + Kitchen, BUILD, Comal, FIVE, Jupiter, and Triple Rock Brewery.

Berkeley Spark is sponsored by the Downtown Berkeley Association in partnership with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Partners for Parks, Berkeleyside, BUILD Pizzeria Roma, City of Berkeley Office of Economic Development, Comal, Drakes Brewing Company, Ecology Center, Livable Berkeley, FIVE at Hotel Shattuck Plaza, Mechanics Bank, The Mead Kitchen, Phil's Sliders, Revival Bar + Kitchen and Streets Alive!

To learn more, visit our website at www.berkeleyspark.org .

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