

Manager of Volunteers Report for 2022

Edmonton Folk Music Festival AGM

April 23, 2023

The 2022 festival had approximately 2552 volunteers which was an incredible response given the unique circumstances over the past couple of years. With the two year festival break and COVID-19 present, we did not anticipate a full return in volunteer numbers, however our volunteers showed so much support and we had over 600 brand new volunteers join. We continued to encourage coordinators to reduce volunteer numbers where possible and re-evaluated specific crew needs.

Volunteers experienced many challenges this year related to communication, last minute cancellations due to illness, extra covid-19 precautions, site changes, and more. A massive thank you to the volunteers who worked so tirelessly throughout the weekend and contributed extra hours to make up for any absences.

There were several changes made this year and our volunteers adapted very well. We moved to all-site licensing, went cash-light on site, switched to biodegradable plates, and reduced to two volunteer parties this year.

We added the option for T-shirt alterations on the Wednesday and Thursday of the festival provided by two wonderful volunteers. It was a huge success and allowed shirts to be more personalized and accessible for volunteers. We also had pronoun pins available for volunteers and had a lot of positive feedback. New Volunteer Orientation sessions on site were a great addition once again and provided a great opportunity to talk about the society and history of the festival. These tours are led by a small crew of experienced EFMF volunteers.

In collaboration with Edmonton Fringe Theatre, we offered optional in-person anti-oppression training for our leadership volunteers and Consent 101 training using Fringe's new online interactive program, "Fringe Learn". We will continue our collaboration and utilize online training programs through Fringe Learn including Anti-Racism courses and Edmonton Folk Festival specific crew training that we hope to make accessible to all volunteers in future.

We held our Fall Coordinator meeting debrief online over zoom on October 23rd and as a wrap-up, we offered tickets to the Milk Carton Kids on October 25th at the Winspear Centre. Many volunteers attended and were excited about the offer to see some great live music!

We held our first Coordinator & Member appreciation event back in person since the pandemic on the evening of Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Shamrock Curling Club. We had a wonderful turnout, the food was excellent, and it was refreshing to see everyone connect once again.

Many thanks again to the coordinators and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the festival and their volunteer family in 2022. Although it was a very challenging year after the long break, we were so grateful to have everyone back and could not have done it without them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Pruden

Interim Manager of Volunteers