

iGEM2019- Electronic Festival Organiser

Interviewed by Lancia Lefebvre

This interview was recorded through note taking during a phone conversation. The following has been put together to convey the interview and is a rendition as well as a translation from French, versus the exact words of Thomas.

What is the biggest challenge for you in relation to opioids?

With electronic music, people are going to do drugs. At our festival the public are older, mostly responsible. There is a politic of comfort and safety in general. PLURI for example on site, security agents, people who are there for health, information and trained appropriately. We have rest spots where the music is at a lowered volume, the lights are lower, water. It's a discrete approach. Then there's the outdoor space, open air, finishes a little later at 23hr, people can drink alcohol, drug use is usually lighter.

Our demographic is 30-35 years old. Maybe because of the cost of the tickets, 35\$ some find expensive. Our people are usually in the music scene or digital arts.

Are you familiar with Naloxone?

n/a

No.

Have you heard about Health Canada, the last weekend of August in open air, we collaborated with them for the prevention of opioids. They're doing a tour of all of Canada for awareness and prevention.

Explained our device: What do you think of it's design?

It *has* to be discrete. No color change. Some people do fentanyl or opioids by choice and they wouldn't want to stand out. Or if you did detect fentanyl in your body, they wouldn't want to stand out. It's great that its easy to use and it's only you that can see the results, to respect the choice of each person. I feel people would be more interested in using it if it was discrete.

Do people express any safety concerns when planning on going or at the festival?

Safety. The people at the festival are open, they feel comfortable, we have very few situations. This year the toilets were genderless and we had people stationed there to explain to people what that meant and why we did it. To help those that were confused understand the change.

There are always a few ignorant people and they're usually doing opioids or drinking alcohol and go maladroit.

Drugs evolve so quickly. The people at our festival know what they are taking. They are older, they have or know their dealers and trust them. They bring their own drugs. We don't have people cruising around looking for drugs or selling when you walk in, if it does exist, it's more subtil. Our shows are more about dancing or are more contemporary, which attracts a more responsible public. You can always be surprised.