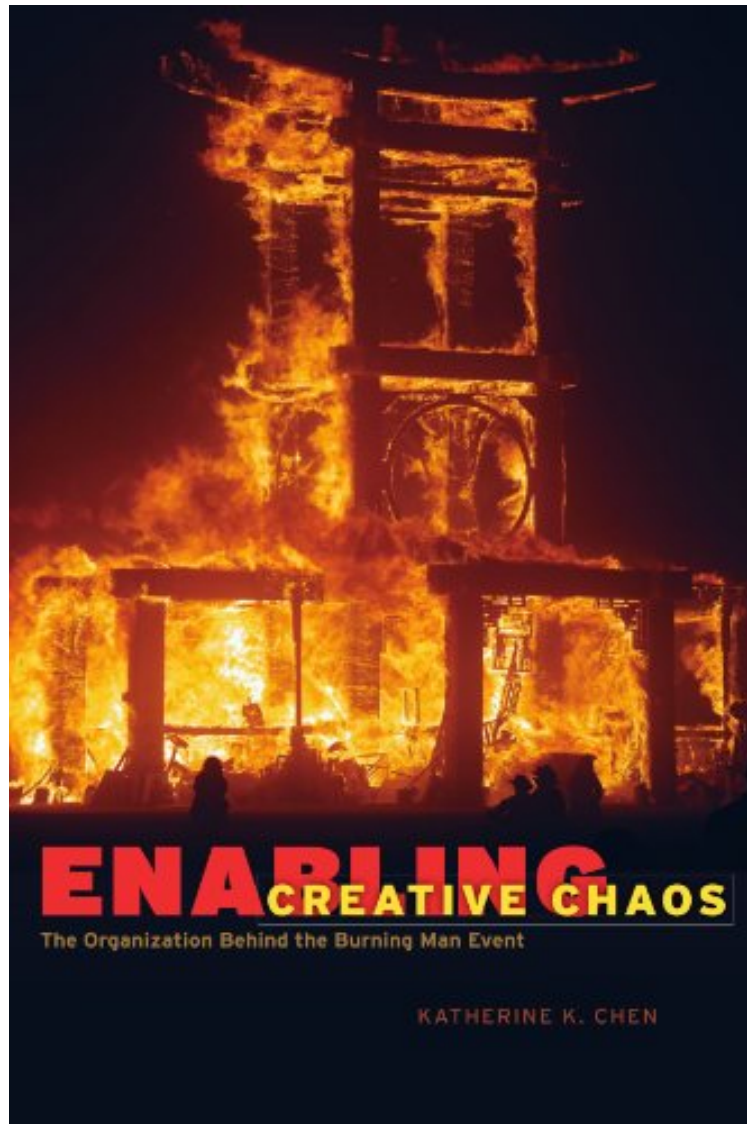


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Enabling Creative Chaos: The Organization Behind the Burning Man Event

Katherine K. Chen

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Katherine K. Chen : Enabling Creative Chaos: The Organization Behind the Burning Man Event before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Enabling Creative Chaos: The Organization Behind the Burning Man Event:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A peek inside a dynamic, unconventional, and very successful organizationBy Conrad Hastings OakeyI read this as material for a business school assignment on managerial styles,

and this book was the answer to my prayers for insider research. The Org and its history of flowing around obstacles, changing shape and redefining itself, is a welcome change of pace from the linear, efficiency-focused approaches in most "real" businesses. Emotional and chaotic though the Org's decisions making process of complete consensus is (or is meant to be, anyway) makes adoption of change extremely rapid and successful, and maintains the faith of the 2000+ strong volunteer network that actually makes the event happen. Interesting stuff for the academic Burner or corporate thinker looking for something different. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Organizational Behavior! By Sophia This book was a great way to study organizational behavior. Interesting and easy to read, learned a lot about burning man. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting read By Mark Davis Wow, this book covered a lot more ground than I expected. Its a bit heavy and I think a second read is in order. But I guess the fact that I'm going to read it a second time is a good sign.

In the summer of 2008, nearly fifty thousand people traveled to Nevadas Black Rock Desert to participate in the countercultural arts event Burning Man. Founded on a commitment to expression and community, the annual weeklong festival presents unique challenges to its organizers. Over four years Katherine K. Chen regularly participated in organizing efforts to safely and successfully create a temporary community in the middle of the desert under the hot August sun. Enabling Creative Chaos tracks how a small, underfunded group of organizers transformed into an unconventional corporation with a ten-million-dollar budget and two thousand volunteers. Over the years, Burning Mans organizers have experimented with different management models; learned how to recruit, motivate, and retain volunteers; and developed strategies to handle regulatory agencies and respond to media coverage. This remarkable evolution, Chen reveals, offers important lessons for managers in any organization, particularly in uncertain times.

Katherine Chen immersed herself in the world of Burning Man, the fascinating community that gathers annually for a week-long arts celebration in the Nevada desert. Her marvelous portrait of this unusual collective provides a rich template for considering how organizations of all varieties strike a balance between flexibility and fairness and creativity and security. This is one of the best organizational ethnographies I've seen in many years.