

LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace or “LNT” is more than just a trendy green catchphrase or a reminder to use trash can; it’s about collectively leaving the space we use better than we received it—and being prepared to accomplish that goal.

The FIGMENT community takes this principle very seriously. Everyone involved in FIGMENT—staff, volunteers, artists, and participants—plays a role in upholding this principle. Leaving the park in good condition is critical to our relationship with the park, city officials, and to our ability to hold future FIGMENT Dallas events. The FIGMENT curatorial team will be at the event keeping an eye out for projects that are an LNT risk and will make a note of projects that leave a trace. Artists who do not uphold this principle will not be invited to participate in future FIGMENT events.

That said, with proper consideration and planning, LNT should not be a problem if you follow these guidelines.

PLANNING YOUR PROJECT

Look out for MOOP!

We have a term for the “trace” that’s left behind—MOOP. MOOP stands for “Matter Out Of Place,” and is more than just litter.



Photo by Brett Ardoin



Photo by Jason Vasilas

Design your project to avoid MOOP

Designing your project to be MOOP-proof is the best way to Leave No Trace and give yourself peace of mind. A set of postcards or feathers from a boa can go from art to MOOP with a gust of wind. Here are some materials you should think carefully about before using them:

- **Feathers, paper, cardboard** It blows away easily and doesn't hold up to rain. Keep in mind how you will handle weather situations.
- **Foam and other delicate, lightweight materials** They also don't hold up to 1,000 people playing with them for 12 hours and start to crumble, making a mess. Can you use more durable materials?
- **Glass** breaks easily into tiny little bits that are not easy to clean up.
- **Paint** is MOOP if it doesn't land on your project. Paint on the grass, buildings, or pavement is MOOP. Paint that gets on a participant who then tracks it around the park is MOOP. Paint that spills in transit around the park is MOOP. If your project involves painting by either you or participants, make sure the area in which you are working is protected with tarps, that participants won't track paint with them, AND that your paint won't spill during transit.

Plan for a MOOP emergency

Okay, so you have some MOOPy materials, but you've taken precautions to ensure they won't become MOOP. Now imagine something goes wrong, and a participant breaks something or uses your project

in an unintended manner, and you've got MOOP. What materials do you need on hand to clean it up? Plan to bring them, and plan to have help on hand if you might need it. In general, FIGMENT has limited cleaning materials and resources to assist artists with MOOP problems.

Pack it in, pack it out. Anything your project leaves behind in the park after deinstall is MOOP. The park provides some trash cans around the park for visitors to deposit their litter. They are not designed to accommodate



trash from the hundreds of projects that comprise FIGMENT. If your project generates waste or if your project is designed to be thrown out after the event, consider how you might reduce or eliminate that waste. If you must generate waste, have a plan to pack it out with you.

If for some reason, your project has special disposal needs or you can't take it with you, your curator can work with you on a disposal plan.

AT THE EVENT

Everyone is responsible for the MOOP around them

When we encounter MOOP, we don't worry about where it came from; we just pick it up. Even if it's a napkin from someone's lunch that blew away in the wind and landed near you, just grab it and put it in the trash. MOOP attracts more MOOP.

Perform MOOP sweeps for high-traffic projects and events

If your project is designed to attract and hold a large number of people who stick around for a while— for example, a DJ, workshop, large participatory event, or large-scale installation—expect people to leave MOOP behind. You should plan to have your project team sweep your area after an event or throughout the day for MOOP.

Have MOOP bags

We recommend you have a plastic bag handy in which to put MOOP that accumulates around your project during install, the event, and deinstall. Have enough bags to hand out to everyone on your team.

Don't let it hit the ground

When you're installing or deinstalling your project, sometimes it's easier to toss parts like nails or bolts on the ground and pick them up later. But that makes them harder to find later, especially in the grass. Put down a tarp or have a bucket ready if you have small parts to collect.

Do a final MOOP sweep to complete your deinstall

You are responsible for MOOP in the immediate area of your project, regardless of who put it there. Whether it's a nail from your project or a napkin from someone's lunch, please do a MOOP sweep to make sure your project's area is free of MOOP to complete your deinstall.