

BurlyCon Community Agreements

Pledge

We are a sparkly, intersectional, inclusive, shame-free community that believes in uplifting one another while celebrating the burlesque arts in all the ways. We do not discriminate based on age, race, gender, size, disability, sexual orientation, mental health status, and other human attributes.

Our mission often requires us to be willing to have challenging conversations in our community about privilege, power, history, culture, inequality, pain, and injustice.

Our goal is to have these dialogues from a place of compassion that honors our shared humanity. Below are our Community Agreements. These agreements were created so that BurlyCon community might model the sort of communication that grows understanding of ourselves and one another.

We ask that you read and commit to the following Community Conversation Agreements before engaging in community dialogues.

BurlyCon Leadership reserves the right to remove ANY comments that violate the Community Conversation Agreements. If a comment is removed or a member is banned, the person can request an explanation by emailing ad at burlycon dot org.

BurlyCon is a community-oriented professional growth and educational organization for burlesque performers, fans, and aficionados. We conduct educational events to preserve, promote, and advance burlesque as a theatrical art form. We offer classes, workshops, panels, and other educational offerings that further professional skill and development. We are committed to supporting personal transformation through creative artistic expression in the burlesque arts.

We follow the following social expectations...

NO SHADE - BurlyCon is a shame-free community

Comments that disparage someone's body, race, age, size, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, mental health status, or any other attribute are not welcome. They will be immediately deleted from forums and the user subject to banning. Personal attacks, name-calling, and heavy sarcasm and not conducive to building a thriving community.

BurlyCon Community Agreements

SPEAK YOUR TRUTHS - We embrace multiple perspectives

We believe all perspectives have the right to be heard and acknowledged especially during disagreement. Even if your every cell disagrees with a perspective, right and wrong binaries rarely build connection and understanding. The goal of dialogue is not to change anyone's mind, but to offer and receive a perspective for consideration. People who feel judged and attacked often become further entrenched in their ideas.

CURIOSITY IS SEXY - We stay curious

Part of helping people sort through their own ideas and beliefs is to ask questions about those ideas. That includes asking ourselves hard questions: *Why do I believe this? What am I afraid of? What am I gaining or losing by trying on a new perspective?* The answers that stick with us are the ones that we come up with ourselves.

START WHERE YOU ARE - We have compassion for and honor people's varied journeys

Everyone has not read the books you have or had the experiences you have. Our journeys are unique and varied. Compassion births patience.

FEEL THE FEELINGS - We expect and accept discomfort

Conversations about centuries-old oppressions are difficult and messy! We honor that we all have been indoctrinated into systems of oppression that we must all unlearn. We will not "fix" the world's ills on a social media thread but we will get closer if we are willing to be uncomfortable. Unraveling systemic and internalized oppression causes feelings!

CHECK YOURSELF FIRST - We acknowledge intent while addressing impact

Sometimes our impact does not match our intention. Conflict can be scary when we feel sensitive. Our reactions are often about us and our feelings. Others' reactions are often about themselves and where they are in their journey. We work to be mindful of the impact of our words and our actions have on others. We take responsibility for our own feelings.

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EMBRACE SELF LOVE - We take breaks for self-care

Building a strong community can be challenging and triggering. We discuss issues that have caused great trauma in the world — and often, great trauma in our own lives. Some dialogues may bring up painful memories, wounds, and resentments. We prioritize self-care as a tool of radical self-love. Do what you need to do to navigate your mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Stop conversations to focus on yourself and come back when you are re-centered.

MIND THE (COMMUNICATION) GAP - We check our assumptions

Often our interpretation of people's ideas is far from the actual message they were sharing. Mind the gap. Be sure to engage with people based on their actual words and not what you assume those words meant. If you are unsure, ask for clarity, and paraphrase them to check for understanding.

DO YOUR BEST - We assume the best about one another

It is exceptionally painful to be dismissed, called a liar, or accused of making up your experiences. We chose to start from the assumptions that people's experiences are real. We ask to learn more about other people's truths, rather than erasing them. We start from the assumption that we are all doing our best at any given moment with the tools we have.

WE SAY SORRY - We apologize when we make a mistake and seek to make amends

Enough said.

* Adapted from *The Body is Not an Apology* by Sonia Renee Taylor