

Inside Ink 2008 Post-Wordstock Survey

	TOTAL (out of 16)	PERCENT (of 16)	NOTES
1. To begin, we'd like to know a little bit more about you. Are you male or female?			
Male	2	12%	
Female	14	88%	
2. What is your age range?			
Under 18	0	0%	
18–25	5	31%	
26–35	5	31%	
36–45	2	12%	
46–55	2	12%	
56–65	2	12%	
66+	0	0%	
3. Was this your first time attending Wordstock?			
Yes	5	31%	
No	11	69%	
4. In what capacity did you attend this year?			
Visitor	2	12%	
Return Visitor	4	25%	
Exhibitor	3	19%	
Return Exhibitor	3	19%	
Volunteer	3	19%	
Return Volunteer	0	0%	
Other, please specify	1	6%	Youth Panelist
5. If you were a visitor, why did you decide to spend part of your weekend at the festival?			
<i>(Note: There were multiple answers allowed for this question, though the percentages indicate that people other than the above six visitors responded. There were about 11 respondents.)</i>			
I'm an avid reader (I love books).	8	73%	
I am a writer.	6	55%	
There was nothing good on TV.	3	27%	
I needed an escape after the presidential elections.	2	18%	
A favorite author was speaking/signing.	0	0%	
I heard about th new comic book section this year and had to come.	0	0%	
Other, please specify	4	36%	1. (Exhibitor) Avid reader; William Least Heatmoon 2. Former Volunteer, going as a visitor to enjoy

3. Will exhibit next year and wanted to check it out
4. I was asked!

6. What was your favorite part of the show?

1. Meeting people who LOVE books!
2. Author events
3. Vendors from L.A.
4. Interacting with the people representing various organizations at the booths
5. Just wandering the booths. My favorite were booths that made visitors walk into the space and talk with the exhibitors (vs. booths where the exhibitors all stood or sat behind the tables). I also got a free sample of Ovaltine. That was nice.
6. Spending time with Portland's local publishing scene and catching up with friends
7. Listening to the authors
8. Getting to know prospective book buyers and watching our authors engage with them. Listening to the musical acts from afar, within my exhibit space. Seeing other publishers' books.
9. Meeting all of the people in Portland's literary community
10. Getting to see friends, the Tidal Wave booth, the comics/manga section
11. I thought the booth arrangements were better this year, giving exhibitors more exposure by not having such deep rows. Always like the buttons, too. Make more and sell 'em next year!
12. The sheer volume of people. People, people everywhere!
13. Jonathan Coulton and John Hodgeman; I also liked the variety of booths and workshop selections.
14. The booths!
15. The panel was all that I saw.

7. What would you improve?

1. A few more famous authors to draw more people, and not scheduling any readings by authors the last hour of the show (the center workers started to pull up the rugs while authors were still speaking!)
2. No tear-down while author events are still in progress!
3. More people of color
4. Make the festival more of a celebration of writing than about the business of writing.
5. I'd get more people to buy Ooligan Press books, but that may not be the answer you're looking for. Mostly, I just want to see Wordstock stick around for many, many years.
6. The venue. I love that Wordstock had an indie/local Portland scene and feel this year. However, if this is the new "look" to Wordstock, then the planners need to find a new venue that will fit with the new kind of festival that Wordstock is (maybe a hotel?) and still be able to accommodate the thousands of attendees.
7. It was often hard to hear.
8. It would be helpful and courteous for Wordstock organizers to respond to publishers whose authors are not chosen to read, instead of replying with silence. Also, the amount of sales space that Powell's takes up diverts customer sales from publishers.
9. Get some bigger names in there to spice things up. I was surprised [that] Portland's own big-named authors were not there.
10. The lighting, if possible. (It just felt gloomy somehow.)
11. I realize that there's a lot to clean up after a show, but the crew started tearing up carpets and other large items while the last author was still speaking--before the show's official close. I even had to get out of the way while I was visiting one of the booths because the carpet was being rolled up right beneath my feet. Not only was it loud, but it was rude to the speaker and the audience who were still within the time frame of the event.

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8. And finally (this is your big chance), do you think that Wordstock needs to produce A LOT MORE of their popular buttons next year?

Absolutely! I love those things.	7	44%
Yes, and I'd even be willing to pay (a reasonable price) for some if it meant I could get my hands on a few.	3	19%
I'm neutral on the buttons.	4	25%
The world has enough buttons as it is.	2	12%