Fortnightly Experience Insights & Trends Report

Events Radar	Start Date
Sydney Festival 2022	14/01
Australian Open	17/01
Sundance Film Festival	20/01

As policies shift in response to the Omicron wave, event organisers **adjust their approaches to keep experiences alive**

Conferences & festivals react to Omicron surge

As Omicron surges, organisers are responding by either pivoting to virtual, postponing, or cancelling events.

- <u>Three music festivals cancelled in 24</u> hours as Australian inductor reals
- hours as Australian industry reels
- ITB Berlin canceled for third year in a row
- IMEX announces new dates for its 2022
 Frankfurt event
- <u>Grammy awards postponed amid</u> <u>COVID-19 surge</u>
- E3 2022 will be online-only again following COVID-19 surges

Pandemic brand reactions

Rather than focus on the chaotic situation in Australia, here are some of the more recent brand reactions to this pandemic.

- Sydney business launches Insta COVID giveaway that includes a RAT test
- Dentsu Nz Creates Managed Isolation A Bottle Of Vodka To Help You Self-Isolate Responsibly
- Jimmy Kimmel launches riotous <u>'Anti-Vaxxer Barbie' "Ad"</u>

The Metaverse in unexpected places

Metaverse experiences are increasingly being applied in new and unique ways, including at events and in the workplace... with mixed results.

- Wunderman Thompson unveils its own metaverse at CES
- <u>Samsung's CES showcase includes a</u> metaverse experience we didn't ask for
- How the metaverse is helping replicate the human experience at work
- <u>Accounting Firms Scoop Up Virtual Land</u> in the Metaverse

This week's "out-there" experiences

Brands and marketers continue to push the boundaries of physical and digital experiences, with new and creative executions popping up across the globe.

- LinkedIn to launch audio events
- Ford's latest delivery pilot will bring groceries to detroit seniors
- The UK's Largest drone light show as London welcomes in the new year
- Netflix? 'The TV screen you can taste'
- <u>"Feel less guilty!" Macca's China</u> <u>introduces in-store exercise bikes for</u> customers

Sustainability sustained

Sustainability and accessibility in event design do not appear to be passing fads. A focus on net zero carbon emissions and increased equity are becoming cornerstones of best-in-class experiences.

- Net zero carbon events pledge launches with broad industry support
- 22 customer trends for 2022 focus on sustainability and equity initiatives
- Promoting equitable access to tech
- Lenovo technology 2022 predictions: Al, hybrid working, security and sustainability

500

Drones were deployed in the the UK's largest drone light show as London welcomes in the new year.

Source: <u>Yahoo</u>