



LONE STAR PRIDE

Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride PARADE APPLICATION PACKET 2007

WELCOME TO HOUSTON GAY, LESBIAN, BISexual & TRANSGENDER PRIDE 2007!

Pride Houston sponsors and produces the annual nighttime Pride Parade and the Festival to commemorate three nights of civil unrest known as the Stonewall riots. These riots occurred in late June 1969 in response to official harassment by the New York Police and are considered the birth of the movement for equal rights and liberation for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Many communities in the U.S. and around the world hold Pride celebrations in June in memory of Stonewall.

Pride Houston welcomes all participants to the Parade and hopes to make it an enjoyable experience.

We ask that everyone follow the direction of the Parade organizers on Parade day. In turn, should anyone in your group need assistance or wish to report any behavior deemed disrespectful toward any other participant, contact any Parade volunteer, who will call a Pride member to the scene to take the appropriate action.

This packet contains the 2007 Pride Parade application and the 2007 Parade rules. Please follow these steps so that Pride Houston may process your completed application.

Completely and accurately fill out the application. Type or print clearly. Return the completed form with the correct application fee to Pride Houston.

**PARADE & FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2007**

**DEADLINE: MAY 15
WITH LATE FEE: MAY 31**

Applications received without the correct fee will not be processed. Incomplete applications will be returned with all entry fees. Pride Houston cannot be held responsible for matching applications and payments sent separately.

The 2007 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Parade begins at 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, June 23. So that the Parade can start on time, entries must be in place and checked in at the following times:

- 5 p.m. Floats are to be in their assigned positions.
- 6 p.m. Vehicles in the Parade must be in position. Vehicles not participating must be removed from the line-up area.
- 7 p.m. All organizations participating in the Parade must be in place and checked in. The line-up area will be closed to traffic. Entries not in position at this time will not be allowed to participate in the Parade.
- 8:30 p.m. Westheimer will be closed to traffic. Lead entries will be moved to the Woodhead intersection.
- 8:45 p.m. The Parade begins!

We also invite your organization to participate in the Parade Workshop. Check our web site, www.pridehouston.org, for more information.

Pride Houston Mission Statement

Pride Houston brings the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community together to celebrate individual pride, commemorate our community's history and educate society for the liberation of all people.

2007 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Parade Rules

1. General

- 1.01 To be part of the 2007 Pride Parade, the sponsoring organization, and no other agent, must submit an official application and entry fee to the Parade Committee of Pride Houston.
 - 1.02 Sponsoring organization must agree to all rules herein and are responsible for informing all entry participants of these rules.
 - 1.03 Sponsoring organization agrees to support the goals of Pride Houston as described in its mission statement.
 - 1.04 Applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2007. Applications with an additional late fee must be received no later than May 31, 2007.
 - 1.05 Incomplete applications will be returned with all entry fees. All of the applicant's contact information must be complete and verifiable. Questionable contact information may delay or prevent the processing of the application. Once the application is approved, the applicant will be known as a Parade entry.
 - 1.06 Parade line-up is generally assigned in the order of complete applications received. Any requests for specific placement in the Parade must be noted in the "Special Request" area on the Parade application. If two or more entries would like to be placed together in the line-up, the request must be approved by all affected entries and the entries will be placed in the position of the entry whose complete application is received last. All requests are subject to approval by the Parade Committee chair.
 - 1.07 A representative of each Pride Parade entry must attend the Mandatory Parade Meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2007. The location will be announced at a later date. Individuals designated as wheel monitors must attend the Mandatory Parade Meeting. Unrepresented entries will not be eligible for awards and may be put further back in the Parade or be barred from the Parade. Exception: Applying organizations with headquarters based more than 50 miles from Houston are exempt from attending this meeting.
 - 1.08 Pride Parade lineup begins on June 23, 2007, at 4 p.m. and the Parade starts promptly at 8:45 p.m.
 - 1.09 As it is impossible to anticipate every situation that may arise, no conduct that violates any statute of the State of Texas or any ordinance of the City of Houston will be tolerated. Any entry violating applicable law will be prohibited from participating in the Pride Parade.
- malfunction, the vehicle must be moved immediately out of or through the Parade route.
- 2.02 Along the Parade route, the entire Parade entry may be no longer than 100 feet. No single vehicle may be longer than 50 feet, higher than 14 feet or wider than 16 feet. Wheelbase width may not exceed 12 feet.
 - 2.03 Each entry may have up to two vehicles. An additional fee must be paid for each additional vehicle in the entry.
 - 2.04 Within the line-up area, each Parade entry will be allotted no more than 50 feet of curb space. Vehicles that make up the entry must fit within this allotted space. Entries are lined up in a residential area with many driveways as well as trees with branches that extend over the street. It is the responsibility of the entry to ensure that all entry elements will fit in the space allotted and can be maneuvered throughout the line-up area and onto the Parade route.
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 - 2.13 All motorized or illuminated parade entries must carry a "type ABC" fire extinguisher as required by the City

2. Pride Parade Entry Requirements

- 2.01 All vehicles in each Pride Parade entry must be able to navigate the entire Parade route and make all turns required without difficulty. All vehicles are required to be in good operating condition. In the event of a vehicle

of Houston Fire Marshal. Parade entries lacking such fire extinguishers, by the start of the Parade, will not be allowed to participate.

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- 2.15 All Pride Parade entries must be positioned and ready to proceed by 7 p.m. Entries not "set to go" by 7 p.m. will be denied participation.

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- 3.06 No participants in the Pride Parade may distribute sexually explicit or suggestive material.
- 3.07 Literature, glitter, confetti, streamers, coins, tokens or similar materials may not be thrown or distributed by any Pride Parade participant. Nothing edible may be thrown or distributed at the Parade.
- 3.08 Any participant in the Pride Parade (and his/her respective group/entry) discovered throwing items not approved by a Parade Committee chairperson is subject to a charge for clean-up costs and/or suspension from future parade participation.

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- 4.01 The Parade Committee encourages all participants to appear in appropriate attire and engage in conduct that celebrates true GLBT Pride. The goal of the Pride Parade is to promote not only pride, but also unity and the appreciation of diversity. Dress or conduct displayed by any entry or individual participant contrary to this ideal or that is intentionally demeaning to any other group will not be tolerated.
- 4.02 Pride Houston encourages all Pride Parade participants to show respect for all genders, ages, races, cultures,

lifestyles, faiths and sexual orientations. All participants are asked to display an attitude that promotes pride in the GLBT community. Participants may not use profanity or obscene gestures or show other improper conduct toward any other group or individual participant or spectator.

- 4.03 In the event that any individual spectator or group of spectators protests or heckles any individual or group represented in the Parade (or the Parade as a whole), all Parade participants are encouraged to ignore the situation and to refrain from responding in like manner.
- 4.04 No Parade participant may shoot spectators with water guns.
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6. Alcohol and Illegal Substances

- 6.01 No participant in the Pride Parade will be permitted to possess or consume alcohol or use illegal or controlled substances during the Parade or at any line up, assembly or disbanding site.
- 6.02 No individual under the influence of a prohibited substance will be allowed to drive any vehicle participating in the Pride Parade. Any participant violating this rule will be ejected from the Parade and his/her group's entry will be removed from the Parade by the Houston Police Department.

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9. Rule Enforcement

- 9.01 A returnable \$100.00 deposit is required from all participants. Providing all rules have been met, the deposit will be returned.
- 9.02 The above rules and regulations are subject to the interpretation of the Parade Committee chair and will be enforced by Pride Houston.
- 9.03 The Parade Committee chair and the Pride Houston Executive Director have the right to remove any Parade participant for non-compliance with any of the rules stated herein.
- 9.04 Only registered and approved entries may participate in the Pride Parade. Any individual or group not adhering to set rules or not registered and approved by the Parade Committee will be removed from the Parade by the Houston Police Department and could be subject to arrest (if deemed uncooperative) or suspension from future participation.
- 9.05 Pride Houston retains the right to assess additional repair or clean-up costs to any entry causing damage, generating excessive litter or abandoning refuse.
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Fees

- \$ 100 required returnable deposit
required of all entries; deposit will be returned after the Parade, providing all rules have been met
- \$ 125 non-profit organization
includes organizations sanctioned by the IRS, those with applications pending and those whose purpose is other than creating income or profit for its owners or directors; foundations or other organizations that generate funds that are dispersed to other non-profit organizations will be considered non-profit; an organization claiming non-profit status may be requested to provide documentation of that status to Pride Houston
- \$ 500 local for-profit organization (business) or non-profit with one local commercial/business promotion or advertisement
includes all businesses located within Harris and surrounding counties that are not part of a national corporation or franchise operation
- \$ 100 each additional non-profit/local business represented by a single Parade entry
- \$ 500 corporate employees' group
includes all groups that are representing an association within a larger corporation
- \$ 150 government agency
includes all city, state and federal governmental agencies and departments
- \$ 1000 national or franchised business
- \$ 50 each vehicle over two
- \$ 100 throwing or distributing approved items
- \$ 150 late fee for Parade application postmarked later than May 15, 2007

Awards

Awards for exceptional Pride Parade entries will be presented in the following categories.

Judy Garland - Best performance
Rainbow - Best lighting
Ruby Slipper - Best walking
Fabulous - Best costume
Stonewall - Best social commentary
Lone Star Pride - Best interpretation of theme
Aria - Best creative sound
Spirit of Montrose - Best overall entry
Pink Diamond - Best for-profit float
Priscilla - Best non-profit float
Judges' Choice

PRIDE HOUSTON
PO Box 66071
Houston, Texas
77266-6071



TEL 713-529-6979
FAX 713-529-6929
info@pridehouston.org
www.pridehouston.org

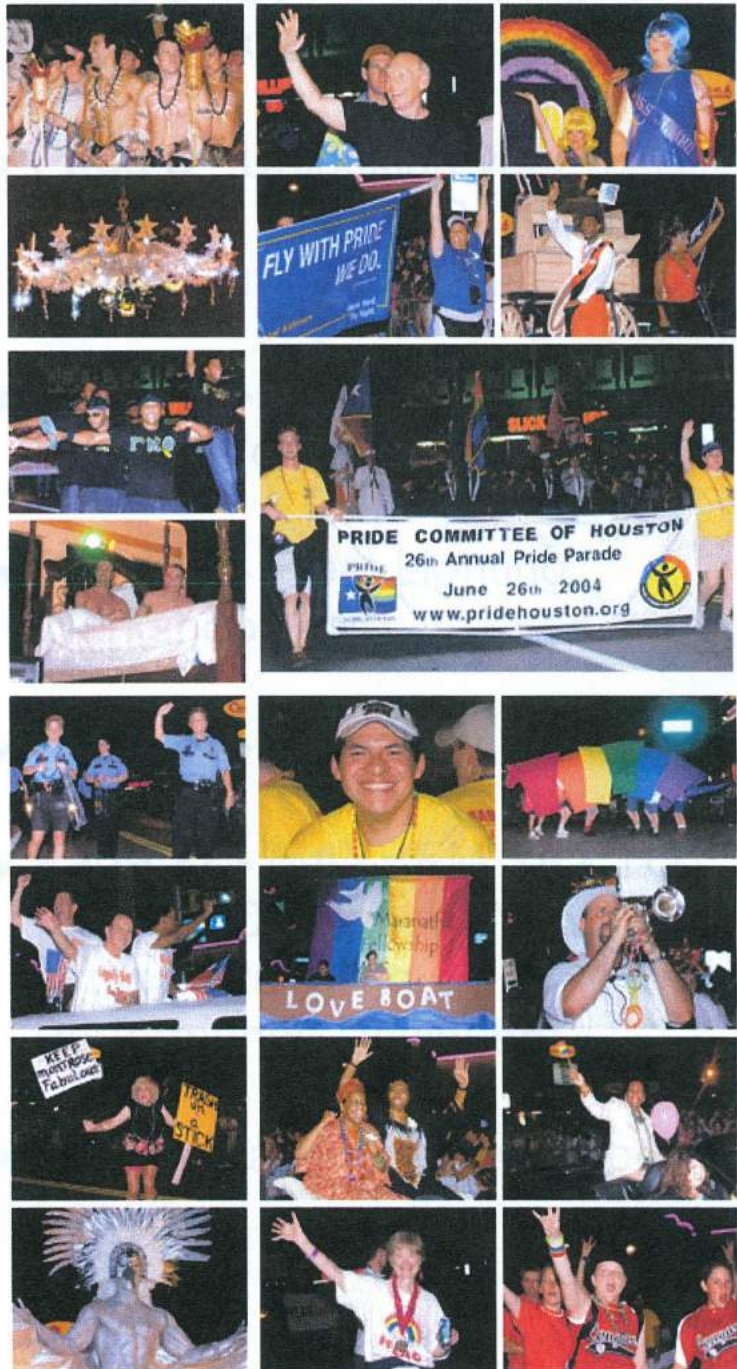


2007 Festival & Parade
Saturday, June 23

2007 Pride Parade Production Workshop

Hosted by: Party Boy Inc.

Presented by:



Pride Houston | PO Box 66071 | Houston TX 77266-6071
713-529-6979 | FAX 713-529-6929 | info@pridehouston.org



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77266-6071



TEL 713-529-6979
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www.pridehouston.org

Unlock Your Potential!

Keys to Building a Professional Float



Step 1) Determine your organization's budget

Step 2) Decide on the size of professional float you can afford to build

- Car* with wood frame (least expensive, \$150.00 & up); AVF**: 6' to 10'
- Pick-up truck with wood frame (\$250.00 & up); AVF: 8' to 14'
- Flat Bed Truck with wood bed (\$350 & up); AVF: 14' to 20'
- Truck hitched to a wooden trailer bed*** (most expensive, \$750.00 & up); AVF: 4' to 40'
- *Recommended cars that can be used as floats include medium to large size cars with a hood and trunk. Convertibles, VW bugs, SUVs, mini-vans, etc. are not recommended.

**AVF = average float length. Width for frames will depend on vehicle size.

***If your plans include renting a trailer, plan on visiting the rental site with a tape measure in hand so you can actually measure the trailer you intend to rent. Most phone quotes of trailer sizes can vary up to 18 inches. Once you have physically inspected it then remember to reserve it at least a month ahead of time.

Step 3) Begin thinking about an overall design scheme

- Start by determining how your organization will express this year's Pride theme. Choose your float's overall color scheme, size, shape and the number of signs you will want.
- Keep in mind during this stage that it is important that you sketch out any wood frames you may intend to use. This way you only buy the amount of wood you will actually use. The best wood to create frames out of is 2x4 untreated lumber, a.k.a. 2x4 studs. Typically they are sold in 6' and 8' lengths and cost about \$2.50 a board.
- If time allows and your plans include a complex design, consider using a shoe box to make a model of your float.

Step 4) Begin searching for potential free resources

- Gay owned and/or friendly businesses are great sources of float prop donations
- TIP: As a token of appreciation, prepare thank you letters typed on your organization's letterhead expressing your appreciation for their donation. You could include a strand of party beads and/or a picture of your organization's membership. Be prepared to give these letters along with the small token of thanks to all businesses that give you a donation. Businesses love posting thank you letters from the community and it ensures another donation for next year.
- Consider borrowing items from your group's membership and/or from businesses. Borrowing items is a great way to reduce costs. After the parade, be prepared to return the items in the same condition as when they were borrowed.
 - Float props such as mannequins
 - Costumes

- Sound systems
- Christmas lights
- Trailers
- Vehicles
- Tools
- Your organization's membership, friends and family are your best human resource pool.
 - Have a float building, planning or sign making party!
 - Ask for several volunteers to begin making pieces of the float weeks prior to the Parade (signs, banners, costumes, etc.)
- Create a list of any and all other community resources that can help you achieve your goal!
 - If your float requires wood but you don't have access to a saw and need to have wood cut, locate your nearest building supply store. Most Home Depot and Lowe's stores will cut the wood for you for \$0.25 to \$0.50 a cut. Call ahead to check because they will not cut some types of wood, like lattice.
 - If you don't have a flair for making creative signs you can go to Texas Art Supply on Montrose and purchase letter stencils. Stencils can help you spray paint professional looking letters.
 - If your budget permits, copy centers, like copy.com on Westheimer near Montrose, can be a great resource for making large, spray mounted professional signs.

DESIGN TIP: Consistency in font style, size and shape, such as can be achieved with stencils, is crucial for making professional looking signs.

Step 5) Locate potential sources for purchasing your materials

Be sure to surf the net. Ordering float materials over the Internet means you will pay shipping costs. However, since in most cases you will not have to pay taxes, the shipping costs for UPS three-day ground is significantly less than the price of taxes.

Often, when purchasing materials, you get bigger discounts when you purchase in volume. Consider contacting as many organizations as you can that intend to build their own float and try to purchase materials as a group and get wholesale prices. If your budget allows, you may opt to order a float kit (\$400 to \$1700). Several companies sell these, including Astro Float Materials and Victory Corps.

Step 6) Purchase your materials

When ordering over the net, do so at least three weeks before the parade. This gives you enough time to receive the materials and, if needed, return and/or replace unwanted goods.

Step 7) Solicit volunteers to help you build the float and notify them in advance of the day(s) they will be needed

Skilled volunteers with their own tools are great. Volunteers who know how to operate the tools are ideal! Volunteers knowledgeable at lighting and sound are treasures waiting to be found.

Step 8) Plan on a time frame for building your float

NOTE: A professional float involves time and preparation. These floats are not for those who wish to build the morning of the parade.

- You should plan on beginning to make complex and detailed structures such as signs, stages and large props two to three weeks prior to the parade. They should be completed the weekend before the parade.
- Plan on constructing the wood frame around the vehicle you will use at least one day prior to the parade. Plan then on spending a good portion of the day mounting the floral sheeting and signs, which you completed the weekend prior, onto the frame and vehicle. A crew of three to seven volunteers should help you with this process.
- Beginning the morning of the parade, plan on finishing by placing final details onto your float. This will include placing the trim and 3-D portions of your signs, and testing all lighting and sound. The last part of your float creation should be to place the trim around the base of the float.
- NOTE: For large trailers (18 feet+), planning and construction will take longer. Plan on building most of the larger pieces at least a month prior to the parade. Divide this task by assigning individual members to build specific float parts at their homes. Plan on everyone bringing their sections in the day prior to the parade and then completing the float over a two-day period.
- Keep in mind: Wooden vehicle-mounted frames can be constructed over a two- to three-hour period. They are relatively inexpensive, ranging from \$30 to \$50 worth of materials. They are very simple structures requiring only the most basic knowledge of tools. The time-consuming parts of building frame floats include:
 - Gathering your materials and tools
 - Making signs
 - Making large ornate props

Step 9) Strut your stuff at the Houston Pride Parade!

Step 10) Have a plan for discarding disposable float materials (see next section, Hidden Obstacles)

Hidden obstacles

- If you plan on using a flatbed trailer, you will need a pickup truck strong enough to haul it and it must have a hitch to connect the trailer to.
- You will need a place to store your trailer and assemble your float at least two days prior to the parade. This could potentially be the driveway of a group member who lives near the parade site.
- You will need to locate a place where you can dispose of the non-reusable float materials on the Sunday or Monday after the parade.
- TIP: For large floats with several structures that will not be reused: In advance, weeks prior to the parade, call around to community resources that may be interested in using the wooden structures of your float that you intend to discard. Places like community playhouses and day care centers often welcome stage props such as wooden parade platforms. Agree on a mutually convenient site and day for them to pick up your non-reusable materials. This will reduce your need to dump large amounts of rubbish and benefit others through recycling.
- You will need a sound system with large speakers to play music on your float.
- If your float will have a sound system, select your music ahead of time since often you will need to create your own CD or tape of the selections you plan on playing during the parade.

- TIP: Music should be high-energy dance music that reflects your organization's mission and/or the float's theme.

The Science of Float Design

- When selecting colors to include in your float, remember that light colors show up best against dark color float coverings (such as vinyl floral sheeting) and vice versa.
- Example: Pride rainbow colors show up best against a black or white background.
- Determine a few key elements of your float you want to really showcase and which elements you intend to fade into the background.
- Example: a flashy light sign goes best against a solid colored background
- A combination of straight lines with curved lines increases visual interest.
- TIP: Use wooden lattice slates and/or 1/2" PVC pipe to make large curved float structures.
- A combination of heights increases visual interest.
- A combination of textures increases visual interest.
 - You can include shiny materials like aluminum foil, corrugated metal sheeting and roof flashing with non-shiny materials like cardboard and colored butcher paper
 - Include fuzzy materials like Astroturf and batting (used to stuff pillows) with slick materials like plastic bags and fabrics.
- Clustering like items in three's or five's works best for design.
- Incorporating simple movable parts in your float increases visual interest.
- Large patterns work best when balanced with small patterns.
- Add ample trim (a.k.a. Twist) to your float, especially when two different colors meet and on all edges and angles.
- When using a car or pickup truck float in a nighttime parade, capitalize on colors and materials to maximize brightness.
 - Use light colors as sheeting: yellow, white, orange, pastels
 - Use premium metallic sheeting
 - Use metallic twists as trim
 - Use metallic fringe
 - Use battery-operated light-up pins, hats, signs, beads, etc.
 - Use small battery-operated Christmas lights sold at Arne's on a 10 strand line
 - Use chemical light necklaces, bracelets and rods
 - Use glitter lettering when making signs
 - Incorporate mirrors into your float design. Mirrors can be cut to any desired size and shape with a glasscutter or by any store that sells glass.

The Science of Sign Design

Combinations of shapes increase visual interest.

Example: Triangular shaped signs with circular overlays

3-D signs increase visual appeal.

Example: Include mannequin parts like hands and heads that pop out of your signs, or hats, articles of clothing, etc.

Clean, large uniform fonts are the key to professional looking signs.

Large lettering made on individually cut letters reads best on parade float signs.

Glitter lettering increases visual appeal.

The fewer words the better when it comes to sign making.

If your budget allows, consider going to a copy center to have interesting photos enlarged and mounted on foam board to include on your signs.

Backlit signs are an option for placing lights directly on the sign.

Try to include at least one prominent sign that includes the logo of the Pride Parade

Tools checklist

All professional float-building projects require most, if not all, of the following tools:

- ☐ Hammer
- ☐ Phillips screwdriver
- ☐ Regular screwdriver
- ☐ Electric hot glue gun
- ☐ Electric drill (TIP: Home Depot rental info: 4 hrs=\$6.00, full day=\$8.00, cordless 18V)
- ☐ Drill bits
- ☐ Electric circular saw (TIP: Home Depot rental info: 4 hrs=\$8.00, full day=\$12.00)
- ☐ Staple gun
- ☐ Standard stapler
- ☐ Staple remover
- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Yardstick
- ☐ Standard 12" ruler
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Box cutters
- ☐ Grounded (three-prong) extension cords

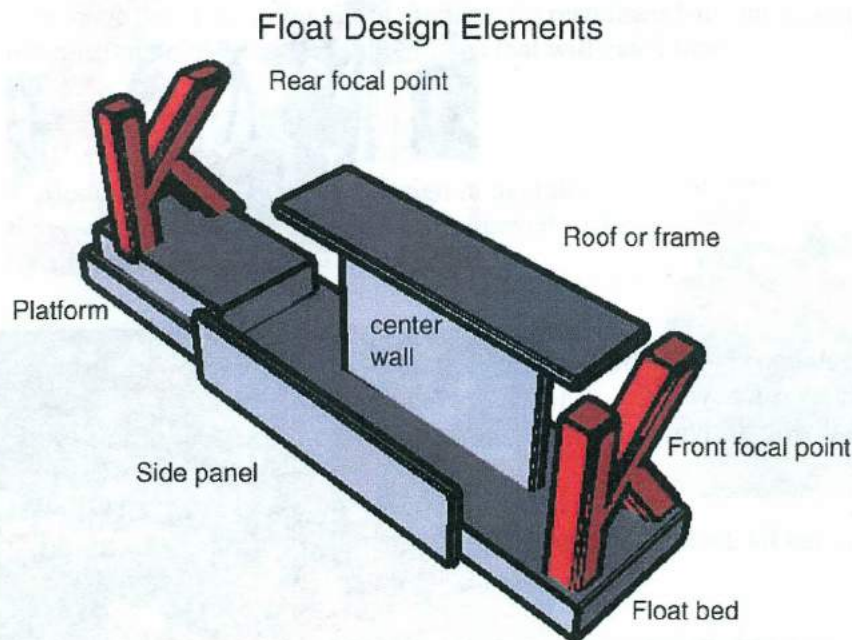
Large floats also usually require:

- ☐ Electric saw (TIP: Home Depot rental info: 4 hrs=\$11.00, full day=\$16.00)
- ☐ Sound system and connection wires
- ☐ Lighting and Extension Cords
- ☐ Generator

Plan on borrowing these tools from your organization's membership. Most homeowners will have a variety of these common household tools in their home toolbox.

Float design 101 - Design Workshop presented for the Pride Committee

1. Your design should tell a story or at least evoke one. Think about having a beginning, middle, and end. Tell a story about pride, or about joy, or about action.
2. Remember that the audience will have three possible views of you, two of which are important: front 3/4 as you are coming towards them, side as you pass, and rear. Rear is least important since they will be looking at the next unit.
3. Identify your float base as soon as possible so you know the width, height, number of levels, and length you will have to work with. Also find out how many people the float must carry.
4. Refer to diagram below



These are the areas to focus on in working out a design. Obviously, not every float will have all of these areas, but they are all possible depending on what you want to achieve.

5. Front focal point: In a mardi gras style float, it's common to have a large something-or-other here, usually a head, torso, or animal related to the float theme. In parade floats where the people are more important, the focal point or most elaborate part of the float is at the rear.



6. Rear focal point - in most parade style floats, particularly those that focus on displaying people, the float starts low and then steps up to the focal point at the back



7. Frame float - here, the float design frames the people.



8. No-riders float - If you don't have to be concerned with how many riders you'll have, the sky is the limit with design



9. Truck float - this design focuses on maximizing the number of riders; since the truck bed is high, the design is on panels hung off the sides



10. Float or costume?



Other design considerations

1. Surface decoration-this is not the time for restrained bauhaus design. Go crazy with color and ornamentation. Add lots of shiny things that will catch light.

2. Modularization - plan your design in modules that can be prebuilt, stored, and easily moved to the location where you build.

3. Overbuild structural elements - Even if you don't have a hailstorm with 50 mile an hour winds come through, your design will be subject to a lot of stresses. Be sure it won't collapse in front of the judge's stand.



4. Motion - If you can work in some animation to your float, all the better. It doesn't have to be mechanical; people can power moving parts.

5. Safety - If you are going to have riders, be sure everyone has a sturdy rail or handle to grip. If possible, ensure that electrical wires are covered or out of harm's way. Make sure that riders have a safe way to get on and off the float.

6. Ease of disassembly - The last thing you want to do is spend the next two days taking the float apart. Figure out how it will come apart (and plan what you will do with the pieces).

Notes:

FLOAT LIGHTING WORKSHOP

**Krewe of Olympus -Texas, Inc.
by Gary McCoy**

**Revised and Updated for Pride Houston by Fashionable Events LLC-
2007**

Basics to keep in mind when planning for lighting and electrical devices:

1) Formula for figuring watts and amps

Watts / Volts = Amps

Use 120 volts when calculating.

Example: 330 watt device divided by 120 volts = 2.75 amps.

2) Total power and wattage requirements

As you are designing your float for lights and any other electrical components, you must be sure your wiring can handle the amps. Also keep in mind the size generator you will need to power everything. The only way to do this is to be able add up the amperage or wattage.

3) Plan for long-term use

Because the electrical part of afloat can become expensive, you might want to buy and build for future floats and/or other uses.

4) SAFETY

ALWAYS check for worn wiring before applying power when reusing last years equipment. Make sure all wiring touching metal has proper insulation and is not worn from rubbing or movement of the float. This should be inspected prior to each use of the float.

Make sure the metal frame of the float is grounded to the portable generator. This will provide a margin of safety should there become a problem with wiring. Also, inline ground fault interrupters can be used.(Some of the newer generators have these installed.)

Remember water (rain) and electricity do not mix well so all electrical components must be properly protected!

Lights

Types of bulbs:

- ◆ Household incandescent bulbs
- ◆ Floods and spots
- ◆ Quartz
- ◆ Fluorescent (tube or bulb type)
 - The tube type seems to be sensitive to vibrations with the float rolling in the parade. The bulb type is not desirable for use because moisture will ruin the bulb, and if it rains, these bulbs may get wet and stop working.
- ◆ Mini Christmas lights (0.5 watts)
- ◆ C-7 Christmas lights (7 watts)
- ◆ C-9 Christmas lights (9 watts)
- ◆ Rope lights
- ◆ LED Lights (more expensive initially but by far the best lights to use if available power is a serious problem, also the lamps last for up to 50,000 hours or more compared to 1000 hours for others.)

Bulbs:

- ◆ Clear -Gives more light
- ◆ Frosted- If you want to diffuse the light, the frosted is a better choice.

Colors with lighting:

- ◆ Color changing LED's
- ◆ Color bulbs
- ◆ Light gels -can get at theatrical stores, Stage Light, Southern Importers
- ◆ Plastic tablecloth can be used as a color filter, or use white plastic table cloth with colored lights behind it. (Be careful as these can melt if placed against a hot lamp.)

Ways to use lights:

- ◆ Direct light on object or person
- ◆ More dramatic lighting, shining upward or downwards on object
- ◆ Behind opaque screen
- ◆ Behind cut outs of shapes or words. [Foam core or plastic core are good materials to work with for this.]

- ◆ Outline with small Christmas lights, either chasing or solid burn
- ◆ Many, many other ways to use lights, only limit is imagination

Sockets: plastic or ceramic

- ◆ If you anticipate the socket receiving a lot of heat, such as a downward directed light bulb, ceramic is the safer choice.
- ◆ Heat: Heat build up is a problem when you have light bulbs in an enclosed area. You need to have venting to dissipate the heat

Useful Technical Information:

- ◆ A set of 24 LED Christmas lights pulls about .02 amps (1.8 watts), so on a 20amp/2400 watt generator, you can use 32,000 lights.
- ◆ A set of 50 mini Christmas lights pulls about .2 amps (24 watts), so on a 20 amp/2400 watt generator, you can use 5,000 lights.
- ◆ A set of 25 C-7 Christmas lights pull about 1 amp (120 watts), so on a 20 amp/2400 watt generator, you can light about 250 lights.

Light Controllers/Dimmers

- ◆ Light controllers can have several pre-programmed patterns. They usually also have controls to vary the timing on the light patterns as well as the light intensity. Some have a microphone that affects the light pattern as well.
- ◆ You must be aware of how many watts or amps these devices can safely handle. In other words, how many lights can you safely run. Additionally, each channel on light controllers has a maximum wattage to run safely.

Sound Equipment

Amplifier, PA systems, electrical instruments

The amperage that the device pulls should be marked on the back of the case (usually on a silver label), and must be taken into consideration for the total amperage load, [Wattage on these devices is usually not input load, but output load], so use the amperage rating. The label should read something like AC120 (or VAC120 or 120V-) 60 Hz 330W 440VA. In this case, the wattage is 330. The 440VA is not amps, but voltamps. Using the

formula; dividing wattage by 120 (volts), this would be 2.75 amps. Another tag might say 120V-0.6A, which would indicate that the device pulls .6 amps (or $.6 \times 120 = 72$ watts).

Other electrical devices:

Fog machines:

You should look to see how much fog can be outputted at a time, and how long the machine needs to recharge itself after shooting fog.

If you want to pipe and direct the flow of fog, you need to be aware that the fog coming out of the machine is hot. Therefore, if you use flexible tubing, you will need to first attach a length of pvc pipe to the machine. PVC can handle the heat, and the fog should have cooled down enough to avoid melting the flexible tubing.

Bubble machines

Wiring

You must be aware of what amperage wiring can handle. Different kinds of wiring to be used:

- ◆ Extension cords (household or heavy duty outdoor, and even heavier duty cords)(Many orange cords are only rated 16 gauge and 10 amps, check the cord as it is usually marked along the wire such as 16awg meaning 16 gauge)
- ◆ Romex brand wiring (the wiring used for wiring a house): 14 gauge wire is rated at 15 Amps, 12 gauge wire is rated at 20 Amps, 10 gauge wire is rated at 30 Amps

Electrical Outlets and Switches

If you used Romex wiring on the float, you must also be aware of what amperage the outlets and switches can handle. The typical residential ones are rated at 15 Amps each.

Power Source

Generators:

Some generators are rated by wattage output and others by kva.

A generator should never be operated at its maximum power rating for more than 30 minutes.

80% Rule---Generators should be sized to use 80-90% of their rated capacity for continuous use.(This also allows a cushion for startup)

If are using a lot of amps, consider using two generators. Most generators have two outlets, therefore if using an 8,000 watt generator, each outlet would carry 4,000 watts, or 33.3 amps. If you then use a plug-in splitter on each outlet, you would then have 4 outlets carrying 2,000 watts, or 16.6 amps. This will allow using 4 14 to 12 gauge extension cords to get the power where you need it, which gives you four circuits.

Power Inverters:

You may also be able to use an inverter pack to power regular lights from a car battery. [Radio Shack has had them for around \$100; 140W, which will carry 300 lights.]

Start up/Turning lights on:

Remember, lights pull more amperage when they initially light up, so, for example, even though one string of C- 7 lights is only 120W, or 1 amp, they will require more power when they are initially turned on. Therefore, ALWAYS get a generator that puts out more amperage than you need. (Remember the 80% rule)

Putting it all together

When planning for lighting and other electrical needs, draw a diagram of the float that shows where all the lights and other electrical components are located, such as light controllers, sound equipment, generators, and such. Next, label the lights, sound equipment and such with the amount of wattage each requires. Also, label the generators by each circuit and by the total capacity. Label light controllers with the maximum wattage per channel to use.

Next, group lighting, such as lighting around the outside perimeter of the float. Other lighting groups may be lights outlining parts of the float. When grouping lighting, you need to be aware of the total wattage for each group as well. Be sure that no group goes over 15 amps. This allows each group

Safety

- ◆ Don't overload circuits
- ◆ Always have at least one fire extinguisher on the float Be careful if it rains to avoid being electrocuted.
- ◆ Be sure all wiring is taped down or out of the way so that people do not trip over it, hurting themselves, and damaging equipment.

Notes:

Resources

**Fashionable Events LLC 503 Melbourne Houston Texas
77022 713-864-9167**

Professional Float Lighting Design, Installation

Regal Plastics 1700 Wirt Road. Houston, TX 77055 713-957-8541 FAX 713-957-8544 [WWW .regal-plastics.com](http://WWW.regal-plastics.com)

Trailer Wheel and Frame Company 8222 North Freeway, Houston, TX 77037
713-697-9777 800-392-0111 FAX 281-9317876 [www .trailerwheel.com](http://www.trailerwheel.com)

United Rentals 17138 US290, Houston, TX 77040 713-466-7040

Party Boy 1515 Studemont St, Houston, TX 77007 713861-9080

Houston Light Bulb Company 3355 Fondren Houston, TX 77063 713-977-0022
FAX 713-977-0023

Home Depot

Lowe' s

Texas Art Supply

Hobby Lobby

Big Lots



ITEM DESCRIPTION

PRIDE FLAGS
LITE UP CUPS
LITE UP EYEWEAR
GLOW STICKS
THROW BEADS
BOAS
WINGS
SOLID SKIRTS
SOLID CURTAINS
SOLID FRINGE
LEIS
CUSTOM BANNERS

PRICE RANGE

3.99-12.99
4.99-UP
7.99-UP
1.99-17.99
16.99-UP
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15.99-UP
7.99-UP
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5.99-UP
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MAYHEM SET TO MUSIC 101

Tips for New and/or Struggling Performance Designers

- I. When you leave today, you should be able to:
 - A. Feel more comfortable about designing a performance
 - B. Apply basic concepts to design a performance
 - C. Plan a schedule to design and instruct the routine/performance
- II. Given a set of basic concepts and an action plan, anyone with a sense of simple movement and a desire to do so can design and/or implement a routine for performance purposes.
- III. **FIRST THINGS FIRST!**
 - A. Find out how much space on the parade route you have to perform in. Then determine how much space you want to use. This will vary with the position of your float.
 - B. Find a rehearsal space. Find a place to store props (if you use props).
 - C. What's the theme? Choose your performance and props based on this.
 - D. Music
 1. Choose music appropriate to the theme.
 2. Choose music that will get the crowd a goin'.
 3. What is the time limit for performance? Find out, then edit your music accordingly. Edit your music shorter than your time allotment, e.g., if time-allowed is 2:30, your music should be 2:15.
 4. Edit your music carefully for smooth transitions – no awkward “bumps” or incomplete measures.
 5. If movement begins on count 1 of your music, record a count-off before count one.
 6. Make sure that your marchers can HEAR your routine music on the performance area.
 7. Make copies of your music for each of your marchers PLUS extras for your sound people.
 - E. Marchers
 1. Choose marchers who 1) can march in step, or 2) want to perform.
 2. The fewer marchers you have, the easier the routine is to implement. However, don't let that fact govern your choices.
 - F. Assistant
 1. An assistant is not necessary but is great to have.
 2. An assistant can “pull-out” for 1-on-1 instruction.
 3. An assistant can identify areas to “clean up”.
 4. An assistant sees things that you may miss.
 5. Remember – YOU teach, he/she assists.
 6. Recommendation – neither you nor your assistant are part of the routine.
 - G. Props
 1. Do we need them? Can we use them?
 2. Must be sturdy.
 3. Must be able to be held and carried solidly.
 4. How can they be used/moved (singularly, in tandem, all as one)?
 5. Do not utilize tosses in your routine; wind may carry your props away.

MAYHEM SET TO MUSIC 101

Tips for New and/or Struggling Performance Designers

IV. ROUTINE DESIGN

- A. Design it on paper like a floor plan.
- B. Unless your group's purpose is dance, don't worry so much about technique – your main concern is MOVEMENT.
- C. Design a routine that can be taught in a few days. Design a routine that YOU can teach in a few days.
- D. Think like a band director designing a field routine – “plot” and “place”.
- E. Think of and design your routine in counts. Teach it in counts.
- F. Use left-right steps – left foot steps down on count 1. Decide whether you mark time or stand still when not moving.
- G. Analyze your music: ABACA, verse-chorus-bridge, etc. You can repeat certain parts of your routine on certain parts of your music.
- H. Avoid using single-line, left to right positioning. If you must use it, don't use it for very long.
- I. If the movement is big and sweeping, spread your marchers out. If the movement is small and intricate, move your marchers closer together and toward the judges' stand.
- J. When designing it on paper, make a final copy, user-friendly, that your marchers can use to study/memorize the routine.

V. INSTRUCTION

- A. Rehearse in counts. Then add music.
- B. Rehearse the drill first, then rehearse the movement.
- C. Rehearse detailed parts slowly, separately, before incorporating them into the routine – this will save you lots of grief.
- D. Teach position in relation to others as opposed to “I'm supposed to be on this spot.”
- E. Don't rehearse for longer than an hour.

VI. Parade Day!!

- A. Use this day to just run through the routine 4-5 times straight through. Try not to over-rehearse small parts.
- B. Keep your marchers at ease. If you're relaxed, they will be relaxed as well.
- C. Pack a few extra copies of your music for the parade route. You never know when something will go wrong with the music.
- D. Don't wear your marchers out before you reach the judges' stand. Conserve your energy as you go.

VII. Final Thoughts

- A. Don't lose your sense of humor. Laugh as often as necessary, especially at yourself.
- B. Rely on your gut feelings – if you think it needs to be rewritten or scratched, you're probably right.
- C. Make sure you are all having fun out there! The crowd will notice and act accordingly – and so will the judges!
- D. “Less” at 100% is better than “More” is at 77%.

MAYHEM SET TO MUSIC 101

Tips for New and/or Struggling Performance Designers

Mock Schedule for Designing and Implementing a Routine in Six Weeks

Six Weeks Before Parade

1. Get together with your parade entry coordinator and discuss performance in front of judges' stand. Agree on theme and concepts.
2. Choose music for performance.
3. Establish how many marchers you want to have.
4. Find a rehearsal space.
5. Find out how big your performance area will be. Find out the time limit on performances.
6. If using props, come up with prop design, materials, and specifications.

Five Weeks Before Parade

1. Listen to your music. Start editing and cleaning up your music shorter than the time limit. Add count-off if needed.
2. Set up prop building schedule for next week.
3. Choose your marchers.
4. Draw up plot design for your routine with counts in mind.
5. Set up schedule for rehearsals for last two weeks.
6. Keep your parade coordinator informed of what you are doing.

Four Weeks Before Parade

1. Build props this week. Get your marchers involved so that they know what they are using.
2. Reconfirm rehearsal space.
3. Remind your marchers of upcoming rehearsals.
4. Add movement to your design with counts in mind.
5. Complete final edit on your music.
6. Keep your parade coordinator informed of what you are doing.

Three Weeks Before Parade

1. Outline your plan for teaching the routine. Teach placement first, then movement.
2. Reconfirm rehearsal space.
3. Remind your marchers of upcoming rehearsals.
4. Make copies of music for your marchers, your parade coordinator, your sound person, and extra copies for emergency.
5. Make user-friendly copies of performance design for your marchers.
6. Keep your parade coordinator informed of what you are doing.

Two Weeks Before Parade

1. Rehearsal #1 – listen to the music. Pass out your performance design. Teach placement for 30 minutes, then movement for 30 minutes (break down difficult parts). Pass out music.
2. Rehearsal #2 – Re-rehearse placement; perform it to music (30 minutes); rehearse movement for 15 minutes, then slowly integrate it into routine.
3. Keep your parade coordinator informed of what/how you are doing.

The Week of Parade

1. Rehearsal #3 – Re-rehearse placement with added movement from last rehearsal to music. Add the rest of movement into the routine SLOWLY. Add music.

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Tips for New and/or Struggling Performance Designers

2. Rehearsal #4 (hopefully Friday) – Rehearse full routine slowly without music; build up to music speed. Add music; rehearse for no more than 1 ½ hours.

Parade Day!!

1. Rehearse at parade route 4-5 times with music all the way through. Don't add/delete at this time!!!
2. Keep relaxed and calm.
3. Break a leg!!

NOTE:

[illegible]