

Fremont Solstice Parade 2011: Logistics

All Ensemble Leaders and Ensemble Monitors must attend an ensemble meeting at the Powerhouse on Saturday, June 11th, 2-3PM

Parade Registration:

Ensembles are groups of 5 or more parade participants, or those wanting to include a float, large puppet, or have music. We ask all ensembles to register for the parade using the Parade Registration Form. This form may be completed and submitted on-line, or print and return to:

**Fremont Solstice Parade ~ Registration,
3940 Fremont Ave. N., Seattle WA 98103**

Only one form is needed per group. It is not necessary for everyone in your group to fill out a form.

Descriptions of ensembles from the registration form will be posted to the FAC website, made available in the community art workshop, and in the *Sol, the Fremont Solstice Parade program*, which is distributed to the public on parade day. Any ensemble wishing to attract more participants can do so by adding contact information and by listing possible volunteer opportunities in their descriptions. Your description is a great way to get more people to join; be creative, clear, and fun in your statement.

Contact information will not be made public unless specifically requested in the registration form.

Individuals and smaller groups are not required to register for the parade. However, if you do register yourself or your group, you will be included in all parade communications; important announcements; and insider jokes.

Friday, June 17th, 2011 Moonlight Float Move:

On Friday night, June 17th, all parade floats are moved from the Power House down Fremont Avenue and positioned in place at our staging

area (3rd Ave NW and NW 36th St.) If a float is being created off-site (not at the Power House,) it is the responsibility of the ensemble leader to either:

A. Move the float to the Powerhouse prior to the Float move for safe and easy placement in the line-up,
or

B. Make prior arrangements with the Parade Coordinator. All ensembles that have created a float are responsible for moving it to the staging area during the Moonlight Float Move.

At 9:00pm Ensembles should have all their float "pushers" in place and ready.

After dusk, we will begin moving floats. Floats are moved into position according to 2011 parade lineup which will be made known the night of the float move, if not sooner.

The Float Move will be the only time you can move your float before the parade, and it is an excellent time for a technical trial run. Please pack tools or anything you might need to fix your float. We will NOT be able to hold up the street while you run back to the Powerhouse for something. And it is a waste of your enjoyment & time to do so!

The floats will remain overnight in the staging area. Do not leave valuables on your float over night. There is no room in the staging area for vehicles or trailers. Please DO NOT plan to park your car next to your float on parade day. (Parking is near impossible on parade day, plan for this & give yourself lots of time.)

The Moonlight Float Move is when we actually start the celebrations! Please join us even if you don't have a float! If you have a glowing costume, wear it! Bring your *things-that-go-blink-in-the-night* & invite your friends ~ its fun!

Saturday, June 18th, 2011

Parade Morning:

Registration opens at 9:00am & we begin congregating in our line-up positions

Parade line-up/staging area is located at 3rd Ave NW and NW 36th St. The registration table is located at the beginning of the parade line-up (by Praxair) and is a great place for:

- Late registration and parade placement

- Coffee, and information for people trying to locate their ensembles.
- Information about ensemble location.
- Emergency assistance / lost child

Plan for: crowds and poor-to-impossible parking opportunities and allow enough time to get on-site, and in costume.

At 11:00 everyone should be with their ensembles, in costume, & ready to go!

At 11:30 we sound a single "street closure" horn;

At 11:45 we sound a double "ready" horn; and

At 12:00 we launch The 2011 Solstice Parade.

It is high excitement and social-time but it can also be chaotic during line up.

Please be aware of the time and of your ensemble's readiness.

& Listen for the horns!

Do not leave anything in the street once your ensemble is on the move. We have no idea what to do with personal gear, backpacks, tools, unused puppets/masks, banners, or all the stuff that gets left behind in the mad rush out the gate. Please stay aware of all your ensemble "effluvia" and make a plan to carry it with you, pack it away, or put it in the garbage/recycling.

There will be a vehicle ("Sag Wagon") to shuttle personal belongings to the end of the parade at Gasworks Park. Please be aware that space is very limited and each ensemble is highly encouraged to carry its own stuff. Also, access to this vehicle may not be immediate on your arrival at the park.

Parade Etiquette and Ensemble Activities

The Solstice Parade is a grand procession of community-based art ensembles that *flow* down the streets of Fremont. Despite the resplendent beauty of such a thing, every year, FAC is plagued with negative response, from all sides, about the long separations or "gaps" that can occur between the ensembles. Gaps are the fly in the salve of powerful street theater.

There are several issues endemic to parades that cause these gaps in the flow of the parade. Please help us by being aware of these issues and developing your ensemble to help us keep the Solstice Parade moving smoothly and evenly.

- Keep a two-car distance between you and the ensemble ahead of you.
- If the parade pace slows or stops, please maintain activity within your group, but DO NOT attempt to pass the ensemble ahead of you, or crowd into them.
- If the parade pace speeds up, please do your best to quicken your own pace to match.

Bicycles and Human-powered Vehicles

Each year, the Fremont Solstice Parade welcomes the Painted Cyclists, or affectionately known as "the naked bikers", to join the parade. All persons on bicycles or other human-powered vehicles are not allowed to ride against the flow of the parade. Riding in circles or formations is great, but please help us to be safe by **not riding backwards** through the on-coming ensembles.

All persons participating in the parade without clothing must be painted. The Fremont Solstice Parade does not tolerate lewd behavior, and anyone without clothing and without paint, will be asked to put their clothes on or take leave of our celebrations.

Stages:

There will be three "stages" set up along the route. At each site, we will have an announcer telling the crowds the name and theme of your ensemble. Traditionally, these stages are places where your ensemble can perform for the crowds. PLEASE KEEP YOUR ROUTINES AT THE STAGES TO **1** MINUTE. You will be asked to move along by the announcer, and by the monitors, and it may be embarrassing for you if you hold up the flow of the parade.

Monitors:

Parade Monitors are our most treasured volunteers. These folks help us keep everything safe and the ensembles paced evenly; creating the enjoyable experience of the Parade. The monitors can be identified by their orange vests.

If you need assistance during the parade, please notify an orange-vested parade monitor and they will help you by calling for assistance. Please do not ask for their assistance in non-emergency situations.

If you are approached by a monitor and asked to slow, stop, move along, or such, please honor this request and help your ensemble comply with their request.

Ensemble Monitors:

All ensembles are asked to identify an "ensemble monitor" from within your group. This person will be identified by a bright blue armband (we'll give you one at the meeting.) The ensemble monitor will be the person the parade monitors seek out, and who will be responsible for communicating to your whole group about its pacing during the parade. Make sure everyone in your group can identify the ensemble monitor and knows what the communication/cues are for such commands as: slow down; stop and wait; move faster, etc. Not everyone will need to hear or see the monitor if you set up and practice good "follow the leader" cues.

Please let *everyone* in the ensemble know that if they are approached and asked to do something by an orange-vested *Parade monitor*, they must honor this request.

End of Parade: Float Parking and securing

****NEW in 2010** so don't forget about it in 2011!**

The Float parking area changed from the location at North Lake Way Place. Please follow the parade to the New float parking area, IN THE GAS WORKS PARK PARKING LOT, where you will be directed to park your float or large puppet.

At the end of the parade, please move your float out of the way of the incoming group and park it in the area designated for float parking. The float parking area will be marked by flags. Keep in mind we need to fit all the floats in a small area. Listen to monitors & float parkers for their direction to help facilitate parking.

It is common to leave costumes and props on the float and leave to enjoy the party in the park, but please know this area is not secure. Anything of value should be kept with you or in your car. Please don't leave props and costumes out in the parking lot or in the way of incoming groups.

Please indicate with large signage any artwork or floats that you want to keep from becoming recycling / garbage and plan to take it with you or pick it up soon after the parade. (On Sunday, June 19, ensembles along with volunteers will begin deconstruction at 4PM. Sometimes people get started earlier. And all floats without signage will be dismantled for the trash / recycling.)

After securing your float, join us in Gasworks Park. There will be a FAC Hospitality Booth with snacks and water for all parade participants. There will also be yummy food booths, a beer garden, and celebratory music on stage. Invite your friends & family to share in the accomplishment & joy of the afterbliss from the parade. Please support our park vendors as they support the FAC!

Remember that the Fremont Fair is also in full swing after the parade (and on Sunday, too!!) This fun-filled street fair features crafters, beer & wine gardens, live music and performances, and other great food booths. [Http://www.fremontfair.org](http://www.fremontfair.org)

Sunday Float Break Down 4PM

(June 19th) at Gasworks (We are not done yet!!)

Ensembles are responsible for the break down and clean-up their floats (we suggest at least 3-4 members from your ensemble.) All ensembles with floats are responsible for dismantling their float. We will be hauling the float bodies back to the storage under the bridge with trucks. (Note: Anyone showing up with a truck for hauling gets extra hugs and the first pour on the beer pitcher later on!)

We start the breakdown at 4PM on Sunday at the float parking area at Gasworks Park. Sleep in, have brunch with the family, and then come and finish the job with us.

General Parade Reminders

No written words

No live animals (except assist dogs)

No motorized vehicles (except assist vehicles)

No real weapons or fire

Test Your Mobility: Can everyone move easily in their costume? Can everyone see out of their masks? Float pusher-handles withstand the

weight of the float with people on it? Try everything out with personal endurance, and mobility in mind. It is highly recommended to hold rehearsal times for your ensemble before the morning of the parade.

Can they find you?: What a zoo! How will your ensemble members find each other? Consider raising a tall flag from your ensemble staging area so you are easy to find. At the registration table, we can only direct them to your general position in the line-up, which is not very helpful for lost souls.

The Big and The Tall:

Large puppets and Stilt-walkers need to have spotters and assistants in the parade to help with getting water, staying safe, making a quick-fix, or anything that can and will come up. What will you do if someone breaks a stilt or needs to get down in a hurry? What if your puppets arm falls off or the backpack strap breaks?

There will be a "Stilt-up" cart near the front of the parade for easy mounting onto your stilts. Look for the STILT-UP sign. This cart will also be available for your use in the float parking area at the end of the parade.

Carry Tools and First-Aid: Floats breakdown; people need band-aides; and costumes need safety pins. Pack a parade kit to stash on your float: Stapler/staples; Rubber tie; Safety pins; Duct Tape; Scissors; Razor knife; Band aides; Ibuprofen; Sunscreen; and maybe a Socket wrench to match your needs. What on your float or your ensemble might need a fix along the route? Make a plan for repair & safety!

Kids: Are you kidding, we love having kids in the parade! Make sure kids have snacks & water, and use the potty's before the parade launches. Common sense kid practices come into play here. Remember they are small and more effected by the hot sun & extreme parade conditions, so prepare for their comfort and safety.

Parading Can Be Exhausting!

Please plan to carry water for your ensemble during the parade. The parade is 1.3 miles long, but it will seem much longer with starts and stops and the high-energy activity of being in a parade. Make sure all participants are able make it the entire length of the parade with whatever their activity might be. Have a "step-out plan", in the case

they are not. Do stilts know safe dismounting strategies along the route? Do your float pushers need to work in shifts?

Pit-Go/ Snack-&-Dash: We have a fantastic group of volunteers who will come out to meet you in the street with a little water and fruit just after the parade passes the Fremont Bridge. This is approximately the half-way point in the parade.

Toys vs. Trash: If you plan to distribute swag during the parade (mardi gras beads, toys, candy..), consider what you are handing to people and that it not become instant trash. A clean parade is a happy parade! Keep in mind that there are no written words, which means no flyers or advertising.

At the end of the parade: It is a great idea to provide some space on your float to haul both water and snacks, and perhaps a change of clothes (stilts need shoes and shorter pants; & puppeteers are sweaty!) for the end of the parade. It can take a while to access personal stuff hauled by the FAC sag-wagon, and having some essentials handy for tired participants makes everyone have a better time. Pick a designated meeting area in the park for your group. Plan to enjoy some time in the park after the parade.

Photographers: All persons wishing to take pictures from the street during the parade **MUST** have a press pass. Please see 'Photographer Passes Info' on our website, for information on how to obtain a press pass from Fremont Arts Council. Dedicated ensemble photographers moving with a specific ensemble **must also obtain a press pass** to avoid being asked to leave by a parade monitor.

We look forward to celebrating the solstice with you!

Any Questions?

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