

Entering the Design Division of our Flower Show



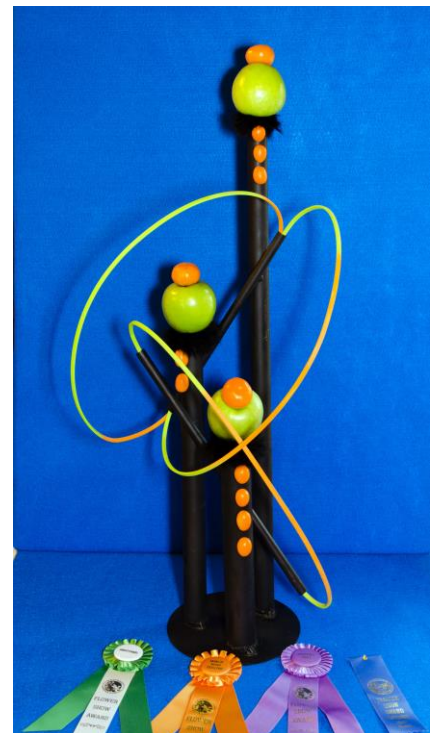
What Type of Design to Do? So you have our Flower Show Schedule in your hand and you're thinking about entering the Design Division. You must first decide if you want to do a Table Artistry Design or a larger Designer's Choice Design. A Table Artistry Design is a floral design with components that relate to the service of food. The Designer's Choice Designs are larger, more creative floral designs. When considering any class of designs, think about whether you like setting a table (Table Artistry Designs), or whether you like doing big and bold floral designs (Designer's Choice Designs).

Also consider transportability. Smaller designs are easier to transport whereas larger designs must often be assembled at the Flower Show. Finally, study the Flower Show Schedule and read each class description. The class description tells you what type of design you must do to be in conformance, as well as your allotted space and staging requirements. These are important requirements that the judges look at very closely.

You Picked a Class, Now What? Talk to the Design Chair or the Flower Show Co-Chairs to see pictures of the type of design that you are interested in doing. This will give you a very good idea of what is expected for that type of design. Also ask for some guidance on the Elements and Principles of Design which are the basic art standards by which all designs are judged. Now start planning your design and obtaining any components that you will need to complete the design. Then practice, practice, and do more practice putting your design together. You don't want to find out the day before the show that your ideas won't work or that your plant material won't last more than a couple of hours.

How to Interpret the Section/Class Theme? Each Section in the Design Division has an overall titled theme and each Class in that same Section relates to that titled theme. For example, in this year's Flower Show, Section B – Designer's

Choice Designs is titled “Our Cosmos.” This Section consists of three classes: Class 4 is titled “The Big Bang,” Class 5 is titled “Intergalactic Space,” and Class 6 is titled “Milky Way.” All three classes relate to our cosmos. So by now you’re saying to yourself how do I interpret those titles/words into a floral design. To start, the theme/title is only a “jumping off point.” Interpretation might be achieved through a Design Element, such as a dominant line direction, a dominant color, a featured object, a natural or contrived form of plant material, or a combination of any of these, or any other expressive manner. **Remember, the essence of expression is preferable to over-emphasis on interpretation of theme at the expense of doing a really good design.** In other words, the design principles weigh more heavily as a percentage of points awarded than the expression/interpretation of the theme. Let’s look at some examples: Example 1. (Left) is a design that was featured in our 2013 Flower Show titled “Fabulous 1950s.” The Section was titled “Music of the 1950s” and the Class was titled “Great Balls of Fire.” The color and form of the flowers conveys the “great balls of fire” and the round, black records convey the “music” aspect. Example 2. (Right) is from our 2016 Flower Show titled “Seed to Table.” The Section was titled “Culinary Creations in the Kitchen” and the Class was titled “Tickle My Taste Buds.” This design used fruits to depict the “culinary” aspect and small black feathers under the apples to convey the “tickle” idea. The circular reed provides rhythm and depth.



How are Designs Judged? All designs are judged using the same “Scale of Points” to determine the winners. The following is the Design Scale of Points.

Conformance		14
Design Type (if applicable)	7	
All Other Requirements	7	
Design (Principles)		48
Balance	8	
Contrast	8	
Dominance	8	
Proportion	8	
Scale	8	
Rhythm	8	
Selection of Components		6
Organization of Components		6
Expression (Interpretation of title or theme)		10
Distinction (Superiority in all respects)		16
TOTAL		100

Go Ahead and Enter! You can't win if you're not in. The Design Classes may seem intimidating to some, but they are just an extension of what you are already creatively doing in your garden and your home. So, have some fun and let your creativity soar! Good luck and we'll see you at our Flower Show.