MegaCon Live Cosplay Masquerade Application Rubric

We're excited to receive your application for the Cosplay Masquerade! When the competition is oversubscribed (as it frequently is) we select applications based on completeness and variety, here's a guide to what we're looking for in a complete application. Each section is evaluated based on how thoroughly you answer the questions, with a focus on clarity, detail, and completeness.

1. Shared Drive Link with Photos Adventures and Artificers Only

This only applies to those who have made 50% or more of their cosplay. If you have made less than 50% of your cosplay then you will not have to answer this question on your application and it will not be taken into account for your completeness score.

What we're looking for:

- A link to a shared drive (Google Drive, OneDrive, or similar) that includes both a Reference and Work-in-Progress (WIP) photo folder.
  - Links to general profiles on social media like facebook pages, instagram pages or Tik Tok accounts do not work for reference photos and work in progress photos. A curated playlist, video, album or story collection can work if it includes both references/inspiration and WIP photos or descriptions, but it should be in a format that is quick and easy to review.
- **Reference photos** should showcase the character in its original form (e.g., from the source media, concept art, or design). In the case of original designs, it should have inspiration photos.
- **WIP photos** should display your costume as it progresses, showing key stages of your creation.
- If you don't have reference photos or inspiration photos you can replace this with a written version of what inspired you.
- If you don't have WIP photos, this can be replaced with a written description of the build process

Scoring:

- 2 (Yes): Link is provided and accessible, with both Reference and WIP photos in separate folders.
- 1 (Sort of): Link is provided and accessible, but lacks either WIP photos or Reference photos or isn't organized with separate folders for Reference and WIP.
- 0 (No): No link provided, link is inaccessible, or it is empty.

2. Stage Performance Description

What we're looking for:

- A detailed description of your stage performance. Include important aspects like timing, choreography, any props or special effects, and how the performance will flow.
- If you plan on performing a skit, this description should outline key moments in the performance, how the character will be portrayed, and any interactive elements.
- In cases of extreme oversubscription we do also select based on variety. A unique performance is the best way to stand out in the variety category and a detailed description helps show us what is unique about your performance!

Scoring:

- 2 (Yes): Detailed description including timing, choreography, props, and special effects.
- 1 (Sort of): Some details provided, but missing key elements such as choreography or clear performance flow.
- 0 (No): No performance details provided.

3. Items Made/Modified/Bought

What we're looking for:

- A clear, detailed list of all items that were made, modified, or bought for your costume.
- This should be broken down into clear sections.

Scoring:

- 2 (Yes): A clear, detailed list of made, modified, and bought items.
- 1 (Sort of): The list is unclear but can be deciphered with effort.
- 0 (No): No list provided, or the list is too unclear to understand.

4. Inspiration Behind Costume(s) Adventures and Artificers Only

This only applies to those who have made 50% or more of their cosplay. If you have made less than 50% of your cosplay then you will not have to answer this question on your application and it will not be taken into account for your completeness score.

What we're looking for:

- A brief explanation of where the inspiration for your costume came from, showing a strong connection to the character.
- Whether it's based on a specific scene, fan art, or a personal interpretation, we want to understand the thought behind your choice.

Scoring:

- 2 (Yes): Clear explanation of where the inspiration came from, with a strong connection to the character.

- 1 (Sort of): Some inspiration provided, but lacks detail or a clear connection to the character.
- 0 (No): No inspiration shared.

5. Unfinished Cosplay Description Adventures and Artificers Only

This only applies to those who have made 50% or more of their cosplay. If you have made less than 50% of your cosplay then you will not have to answer this question on your application and it will not be taken into account for your completeness score.
What we're looking for:
- If your cosplay is still in progress, tell us what's left to complete. This could include sewing, painting, finishing props, etc.
- If your cosplay is finished, state that clearly.
- While it is not required that your cosplay be complete at the time of applying, in cases of oversubscription we will consider the completeness level of your cosplay when grading applications.

Scoring:
- 2 (Yes): Costume is complete with no unfinished elements.
- 1 (Sort of): A list of unfinished tasks is provided.
- 0 (No): Unfinished tasks mentioned but lacking clarity or detail.

Quick Tips for a Strong Application:

- **Be Detailed and Specific**: Provide as much detail as possible. For example, describe the inspiration behind your design, and how you plan to present your performance on stage.
- **Provide Complete Information**: Make sure each section is fully answered. If a question asks for a list or description, include everything asked and organize it clearly.
- **Use Clear Photos**: Ensure your shared drive includes high-quality, clear photos of both your reference materials and work-in-progress shots. This will help judges see your process and craftsmanship. Make sure that viewing permissions are turned on.
- **Showcase Your Performance**: When describing your stage performance, be as descriptive as possible. Talk about the timing, movements, props, and effects you plan to use to bring the character to life.
- **Explain the "Why" Behind Your Work**: In the inspiration section, go beyond just saying where your idea came from—explain why you chose the character and what about the design or the character resonates with you.
- **Be Honest About Your Progress**: If your costume isn't fully finished, clearly state what's left to do and how you plan to complete it. If it's finished, make sure that's noted.

- **Follow the Guidelines**: Double-check that you've followed all instructions and included everything requested in the application. A well-organized and complete submission helps you earn a higher completeness rating and increases your chances of securing a spot.
- **Remember Variety:** While completeness is the primary metric we select applications by, we will also select based on variety. This most comes into play with your performance type and plan. More original or unique performances stand out in the variety category.

We want to see your creativity and craftsmanship shine, so be sure to give us as much detail as possible in each section! Good luck, and we look forward to seeing your entries!