



At-Home Activity: Design a Float!



The Louisiana State Museum houses a collection of more than 40,000 carnival-related artifacts, including historic float designs and models! Float designs are bright, heavily decorated, and beautiful celebrations of carnival. Many carnival krewes have different themes each year and decorate their floats to match the theme.

Just like float designers start by drawing out their plans, try creating your own design. Think about what theme you want to convey and who might be riding on your float. Will it be for krewe royalty or designed to carry more riders? Use the historical examples in this packet as you create your own float! You can also go online to LouisianaDigitalLibrary.org to find more historical examples.

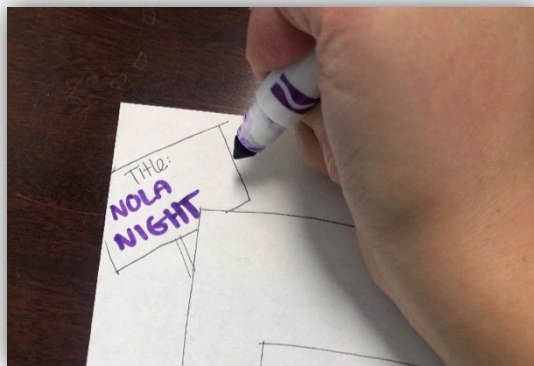
Materials:

- Float template or blank piece of paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Optional:
 - Stickers
 - Glue stick
 - Scissors
 - A magazine or newspaper

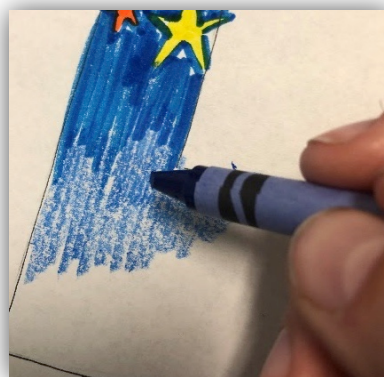
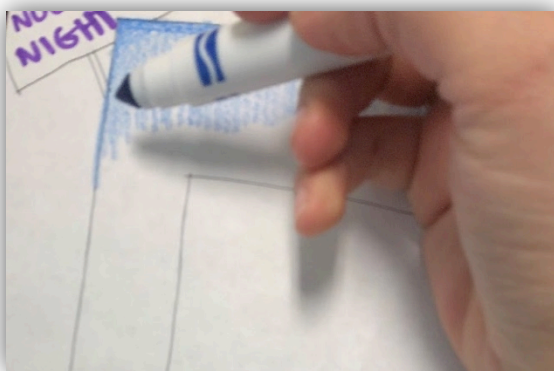


Instructions:

1. Start by picking out one of the float templates provided on the following pages, which represent some of the common shapes of Mardi Gras floats. Some are designed for royalty, with a clear place for them to stand at the top, while others might have two levels to carry more riders.
 - a. Option: try drawing your own float design instead of using one of the templates. This is also a great option if you don't have access to a printer!
2. Pick a theme for your float! You can use images of some of the historic float designs below as inspiration or come up with your own theme.
 - a. Once you've decided upon a theme, give your float a title.



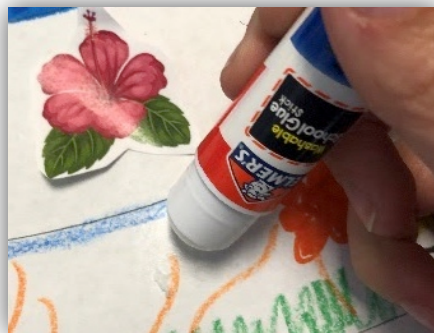
3. Begin decorating with markers, crayons or colored pencils! You can draw the riders or just the float—it's up to you!



- a. If you have stickers, try adding some for extra decoration.

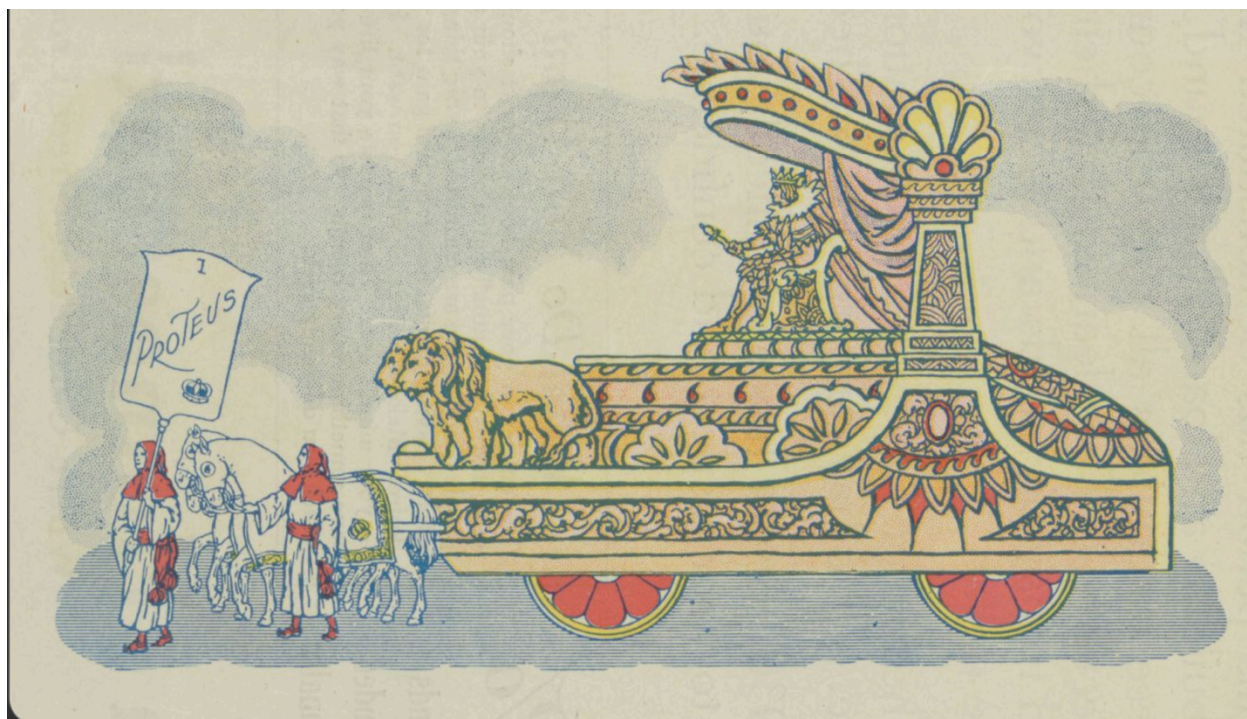


- b. You can also cut out images from magazines or newspapers to turn your float into a collage!

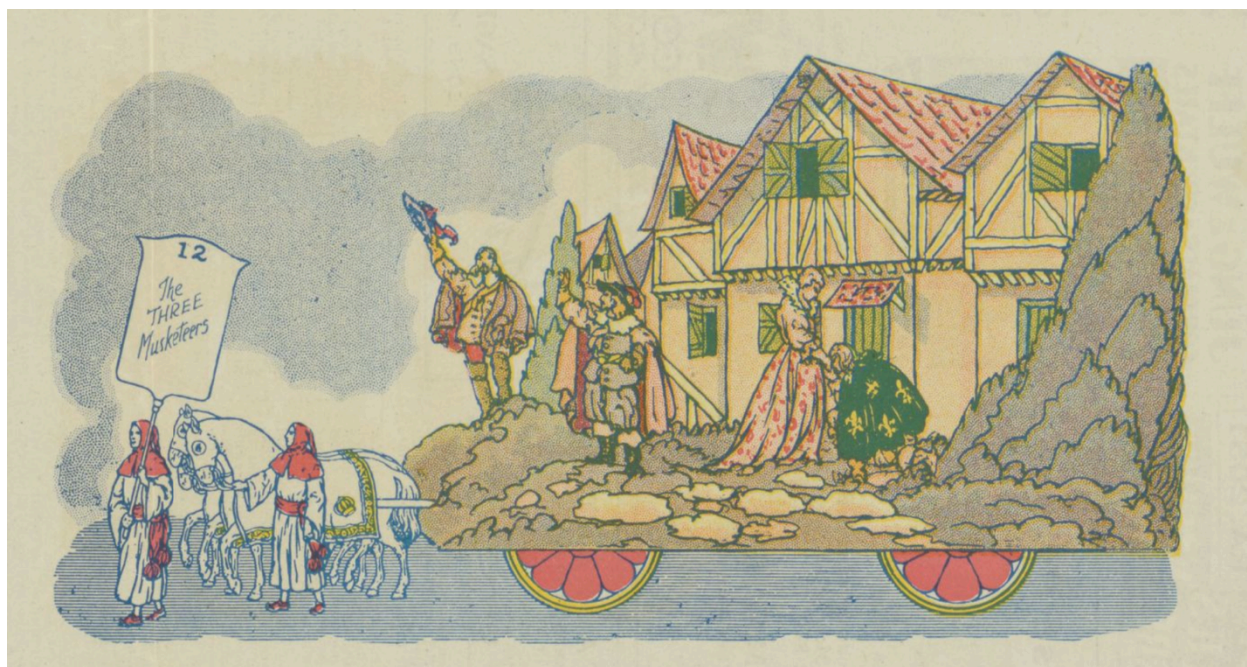




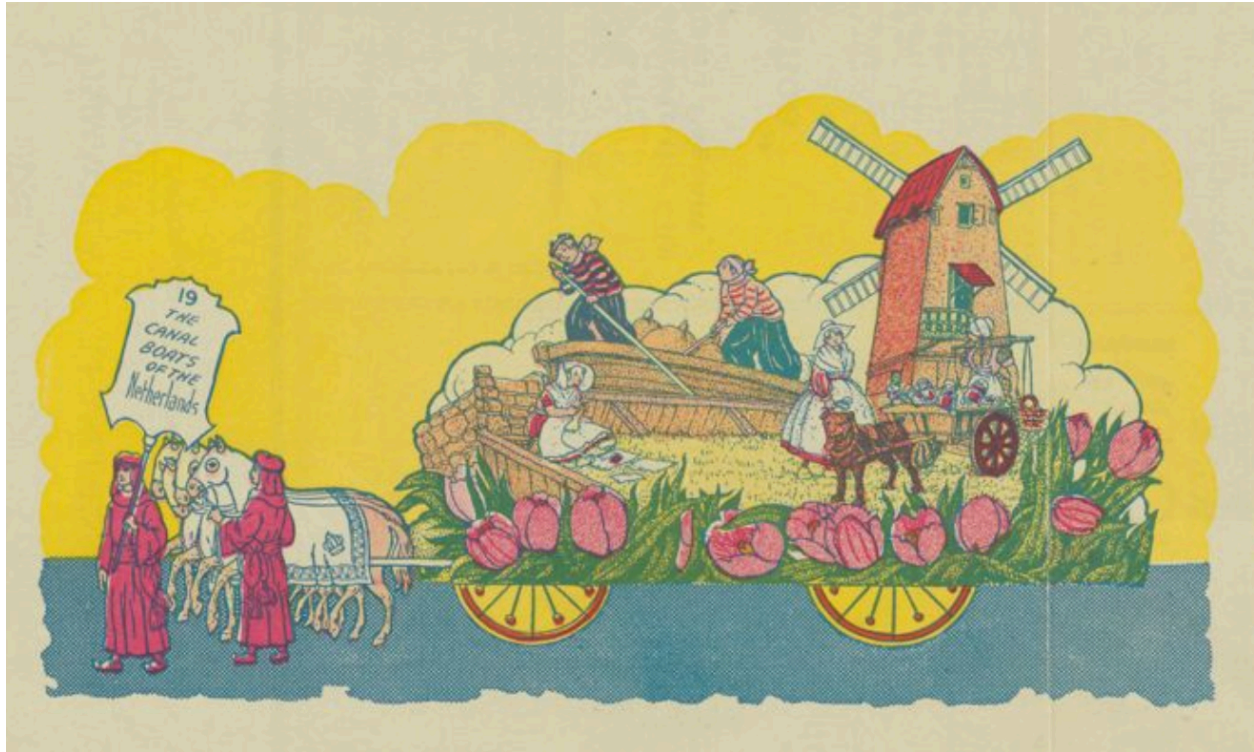
Historical Float Designs



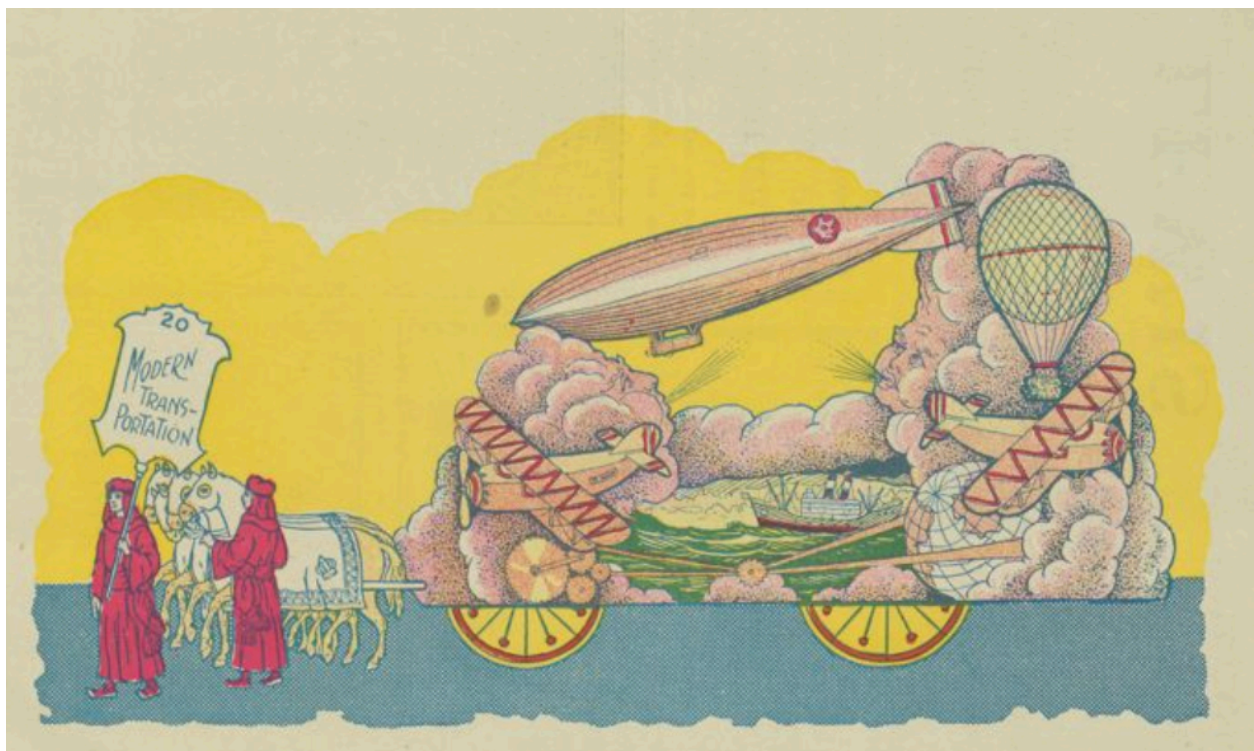
Krewe of Proteus, king's float, 1931. T0183.1997.



Krewe of Proteus, "The Three Musketeers," 1931. T0183.1997.



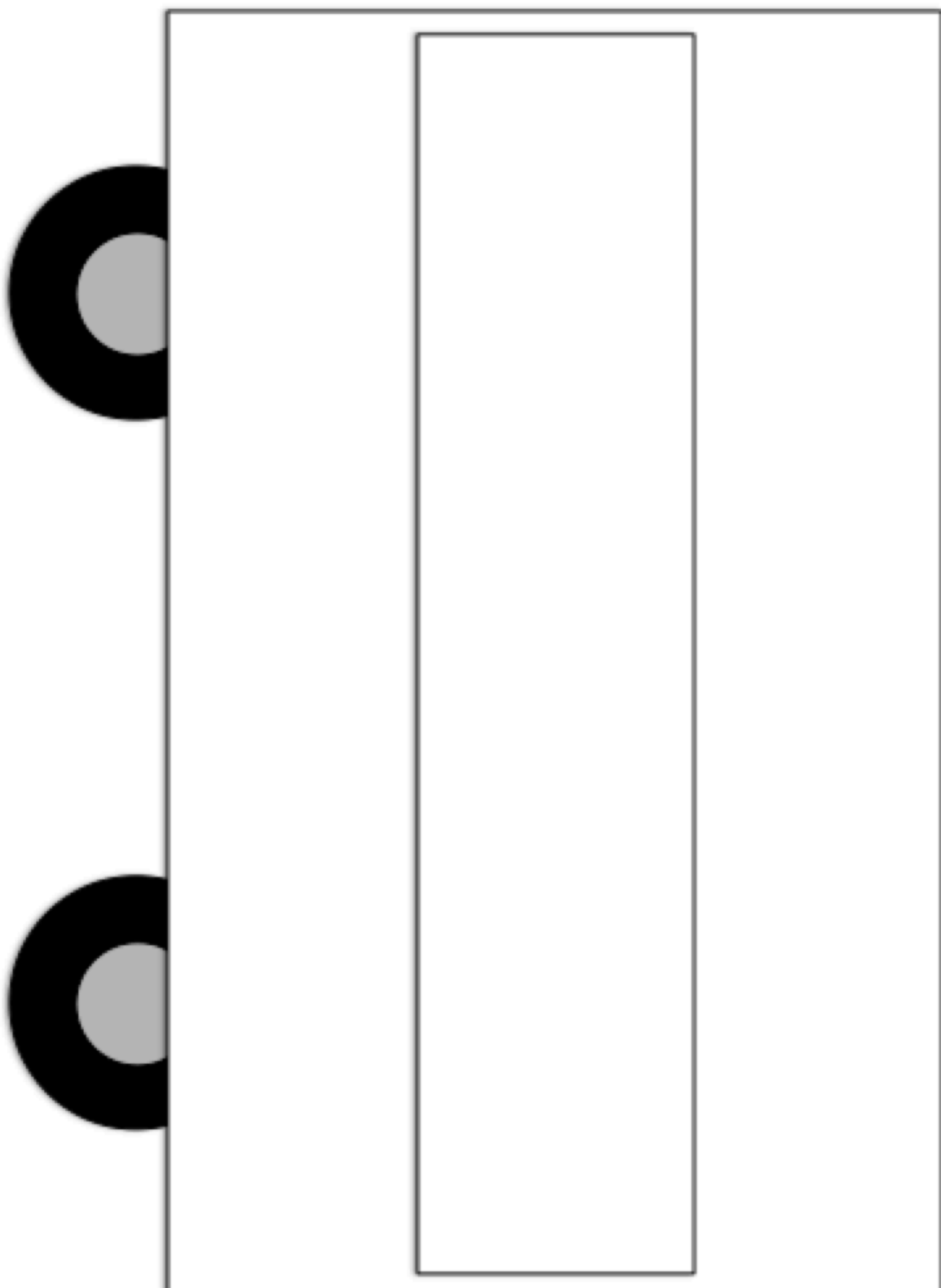
Rex, "The Canal Boats of the Netherlands," 1928. 1956.017.11.



Rex, "Modern Transportation," 1928. 1956.017.11.



Float Title:





Float Title: _____

