

Ms / Mr / Mx Big Gay Market Official Pageant Rules and Regulations

The term Big Gay Market (“BGM”) shall refer to Big Gay Market LLC, including its members (Ashley Shaw Adams and Oliver DiPietro (the “BGM Members”)), and its staff (Logan Bitz, Bailey Jerrick, and Taylor Clinton (the “BGM Staff”)).

Requirements for Entry

- Contestants must be at least 18 years of age prior to the date of the pageant
- There are no sex or gender requirements for contestants regarding entry or for their performance presentation / persona
- Any contestant who has entered or intends to enter to The Big Gay Market Drag Pageant may not act as a judge during the year in which they intend to compete for any contest that is designated a Big Gay Market Drag Pageant competitive event.

Requirements for Conduct

Conduct requirements are applicable to the following times, settings, and situations:

1. On site, before, during, and after the Big Gay Pride Pageant event in which the contestant will compete
2. On site, before, during, and after the Big Gay Pageant event in which the winning contestant will transfer their crown to the next winner
3. At any event or in any social media post where the contestant is representing the Big Gay Market, including, but not limited to:
 - i. by wearing their Big Gay Market sash or the Big Gay Crown
 - ii. by representing the Big Gay Market with pictures of themselves in their sash or the crown
 - iii. by representing the Big Gay Market with pictures of themselves performing at The Big Gay Market
 - iv. when tagging or collaborating with The Big Gay Market on a social media post

All titleholders and contestants of any Big Gay Pageant must adhere to these minimum rules of conduct:

- Present themselves professionally, as determined by Big Gay Market, while representing their respective titles and at sites of Big Gay Market events, as described herein
- Do not demean the pageant or title they represent
- Do not cause substantial disruption to Big Gay Market events, including disruption to the enjoyment of event attendees
- Do not attend while intoxicated with or under the influence of any mind altering substance, including alcohol, cannabis or its derivatives, or any other controlled substance, for which they do not have a prescription, while representing their respective title or while at sites of Big Gay Market events
- Do not publicly participate in any type of aggravated or otherwise significantly emotional or physical dispute, except to intervene non-violently with the intent to resolve the dispute peacefully or as explicitly authorized in writing by Big Gay Market, while representing their title or while at sites of Big Gay Market events
- Attempt to solve any disputes with Big Gay Market, other pageant participants, or attendees in a peaceable manner and with a good faith attempt at resolution, as determined by Big Gay Market
- Provide quality entertainment while representing Big Gay Market or while at sites of Big Gay Market events.
- They shall not steal from the Big Gay Market or at any sites of Big Gay Market events.

Violating any minimum rule of conduct may result in contestant disqualification for future events with the Big Gay Market, revocation of prizes, and revocation of titles. The Big Gay Market shall have complete discretion to determine the consequences for rule violations. Support individuals who are assisting a contestant or titleholder are subject to the same minimum rules of conduct as contestants or titleholders while acting as a support individual.

Any contestant or support individual who is determined to have stolen or attempted to steal an asset with easily determinable monetary value from any other person or entity, including the Big Gay Market, at the site of a Big Gay Market event and as determined by and in the Big Gay Market's reasonable discretion, will immediately be disqualified from all future Big Gay Market events and will be removed from the site of the ongoing Big Gay Market event. Non-compliance with the rule regarding stealing will result in the permanent disqualification from entry into the Big Gay Market pageant unless later revoked in writing and signed by all of the BGM Members.

Pageant Operation

Judging

Contestants will be judged in the following categories:

- Avant-Garde (maximum of 40 points)
- Brief Onstage Q&A (maximum of 40 points)
- Talent (maximum of 30 points)
- Only in the event of a tie, one additional onstage question may be asked (maximum of 30 points)

The Big Gay Market will choose and provide a panel of three judges and intends to include: a BGM Member, a recent Big Gay Market pageant winner or runner-up, and an additional qualified individual, chosen at the discretion of BGM. In the event of any scheduling issues, BGM will select replacement judges to maintain a minimum of three judges at all times during the pageant.

BGM will furnish the score matrices for each category to attempt to establish consistency and fairness in scoring criteria for all competitors.

Judging will be based on total points accumulated. Pageant scoring will be done on a cumulative basis. In a sufficiently private setting, the MC, reigning or previous titleholders of The Big Gay Pageant, and other staff designated by the BGM may question a judge's score, and BGM may eliminate the judge's score sheet for one or more matrices altogether if the scores are deemed to be biased or otherwise unfairly determined.

In the event of a tie, contestants with the "tied" scores will be asked to return to the stage to complete a single onstage question. If such "tie-breaking" action is required, the "tie-break" question will be scored according to the Brief Onstage Q&A category matrix.

Music Submissions

Competition music must be:

- Submitted in quality condition (i.e., a flash drive containing only the properly labeled files and with no file damage that affects "playback"). Minimum audio quality will be provided upon acceptance and is dependent on DJ's specifications.
- Submitted by the due date to the correct contact individual as specified in the email confirming the entry of the competitor in the Big Gay Market Pageant

- Not generated by any form of artificial intelligence or similar procedural generation software

Any late or substandard music submitted will receive administrative point deductions of up to 12 points. Competitor-submitted music must be submitted as a MP3, WAV or FLAC, which will allow it to be transferred to multiple devices. The music will be moved to another device after submission by the pageant event coordinator - Logan - or other designated BGM staff and placed on a separate portable flash drive maintained by the event coordinator and DJ. BGM will also create and maintain a backup flash drive of all music.

Performance Policies

Any solo performance presentation may be acceptable without the need for express, written approval by the BGM, except those presentations that create an unacceptable danger, as determined by the Big Gay Market, due to their potential to cause injury to self, injury to others, or damage to the venue. If performers or support staff have ANY question about any part of a performance, please ask BGM. Performers must abide by all rules set by the hosting venue as to their performances and props. During their performance, Performers are not permitted to have or use:

1. Pyrotechnics or fire of any kind
2. Loose glitter or confetti of any kind
3. Live animals, with the exception of a task-trained service dog attending the performer in a working capacity, if needed
4. Food or liquids - including, but not limited to, water
5. Guns, real or fake
6. Other weapons, real or fake

Competitors may receive a zero (0) in any category for which a policy violation occurs, may have points deducted from their total pageant score for each violation, and may be charged a fee for any costs related to cleaning or repair due to the violation.

Competitors are asked to perform within their skill level. "Near-miss" incidents that could have resulted in harm to themselves, others, or the venue are also subject to reduced or deducted points in the scoring category in which the "near-miss" occurred. Any performance deemed unacceptably dangerous at any time may be immediately ended by the Big Gay Market.

For a more detailed list of disallowed items, venue rules, or for specific questions about your performance, please contact the Big Gay Market, LLC directly to discuss with Ashley and Ollie.

Requirements of the Pageant Winner and First Runner-up

The pageant winner will receive:

- Rights to wear the Big Gay Pageant Crown (Prior to the next Big Gay Market Pageant, must be returned to BGM in the same condition presented, minor wear and tear excepted, and may be presented by the pageant winner to the next Big Gay Pageant winner)
- Sash
- Cash prize of \$150
- Right to designate the donation of \$50 by BGM on behalf of the winner to the winner's chosen not-for-profit organization
- Option to accept a performance slot in the following night's Big Gay Market Drag Show
- Option to attend or perform at two or more future BGM events prior to the next year's pageant (e.g., Fall market, Holiday market, Spring market, Big Gay Prom, Pride market). The options available at these events will be determined in advance by BGM Members.

The pageant first runner-up will receive:

- Cash prize of \$100
- Right to designate the donation of \$50 by BGM on behalf of the first runner-up to the first runner-up's chosen not-for-profit organization
- Option to attend or perform at any events offered to the pageant winner that the winner will not attend or perform for any reason
- Option to judge the following year's BGM pageant as a judge if the pageant winner will not attend or perform for any reason
- Option to be promoted to the titleholder position in the event the pageant winner loses the title for any reason

All contestants receive free admission to the Big Gay Pride Night Market for themselves and one guest. Their support individual may be chosen as the contestant's guest or will be required to pay for entry. Contestants will be provided a method, such as a code, to reserve night market tickets via email upon acceptance into the pageant.

The pageant winner is expected to:

- Attend the next year's pageant to transfer the crown, signifying the end of their reign and crowning their successor
- Attend the next year's pageant as a judge
- Maintain a congenial, professional relationship with the Big Gay Market and uphold higher conduct standards than the minimum conduct rules when attending or representing BGM and its events
- Post at least 2 social media posts promoting the Big Gay Market Drag Pageant on social media during their reign pursuant to the following conditions:
 1. One post within one month of the winning pageant
 2. One post within 30 days prior to the next year's Big Gay Market Drag Pageant

3. Additional posts are allowed if the winner prefers to post more. Should the winner post anything regarding the Big Gay Market that is determined to not uphold the minimum conduct rules or other standards of The Big Gay Market, the winner must remove the referenced post within 4 hours of receiving actual notice to do so.
4. Social media includes posts on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and/or Bluesky. If a winner intends to post on any other social media platforms, the winner must receive written approval of the platform from Ashley or Ollie prior to posting about the Big Gay Market.

Ms / Mr / Mx Big Gay Pride Official Pageant Procedure and Categories

Contestants must arrive and check in no later than 6:00 PM. Points will be deducted at a rate of 5 points for every five minutes late, rounding up (e.g., 8 minutes = 10 points off). Arrivals after 6:30 PM will be automatically disqualified. Contestants must check in at The BGM welcome table at the entrance of the market when they arrive.

Contestants are highly encouraged to walk around the market in a walk-around outfit or their pageant outfit prior to the Pageant sound check at 6:30 PM. Contestants should be back at the Performer Dressing Room and ready to perform in the Pageant at 6:30 PM.

All Contestants will have access to one shared, gender neutral dressing room and will have the shared assistance of one of the BGM Staff during the initial backstage period before the pageant. If desired, contestants may also bring one support individual to assist with costume changing, backstage needs, prop management, and for any other physical assistance other than on stage during the performance. Because of limited space, all support individuals should be mindful of other contestants and persons in the shared space. Any poor sportsmanship in the dressing area by a contestant or their support individual may result in disqualification of the contestant from the pageant or other penalties, in the Big Gay Market's sole discretion. Absolutely no people other than the singular support individual of the contestant will be allowed in the dressing area.

Categories will be conducted in the following order. An additional onstage tie-breaker question will be asked in the event of a tie:

- **Avant-Garde**
 - Modeling of performer fashion on the catwalk
- **Brief Onstage Q&A**
 - Two question onstage interview of the performer
- **Talent**
 - Onstage performance of choice by contestant

Avant Garde - 40 Points Possible per Judge

Artistry of Fashion 0 - 20 Points

Creativity Source of Apparel Culture Artistry

Presentation 0 - 10 Points

Modeling Technique Poise and Pacing Smile and/or Dramatic Flair

Hairstyle 0 - 5 Points

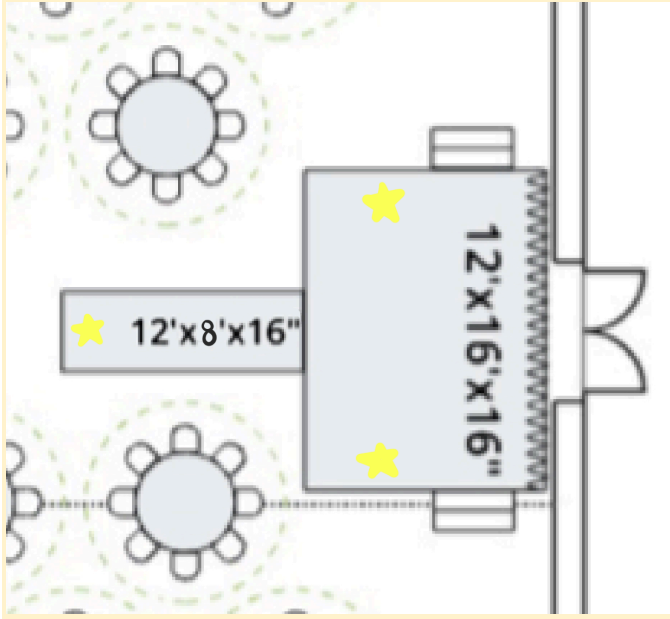
General Appearance 0 - 5 Points

Cohesion Apparel Condition Accessories, Makeup, Footwear

The Avant Garde category will be judging the contestant's apparel and fashion via modeling on the catwalk. Contestant appearance as a whole and each piece of the fashion will be awarded points based on criteria such as:

- Expression of contestant style
- Expression of contestant creativity
- Expression of contestant artistry
- Creativity in the design, arrangement, manufacture, alterations, and / or improvements or additions to a garment or garments
- Local, small business, artist, maker, or self-created items featured in apparel
- Culture or community connection in the fashion
- Cohesion of overall look

Contestant apparel does not need to be expensive, in perfect condition, of a high-end nature, or branded. The Big Gay Market values accessibility and artistry, so judges will be appreciative of fashion that demonstrates creative use of each element of the apparel; additions or alterations to garments by the contestant, a small business, a maker or other artist; cohesion of the outfit as a whole; and / or an outfit with elements that are connected (to other components of the outfit or to the contestant's theme, vibe, history, etc.) Contestant apparel may feature see-through elements or partial nudity, but must cover the nipples, genitals, and buttohole of the contestant **at all times** before, during, and after the competition. Shoes must be worn. Hair can be in any style, including an "up-style," "down-style," or "none" and will be judged as part of the overall look of the contestant.



Contestant modeling will be awarded points based on criteria such as:

- Poise
- Pace
- Self-Expression
- Demonstration of fashion

Modeling should be a slow easy pace, touching the three points of the catwalk that form the triangle in the diagram above at least once. At each point the contestant will make a slow turn, facing the back of the stage, pause, and turn to the front of the stage so that the judges may see your entire look and fashion. Modeling can be "free-style" (no boundaries or stipulations, for example, no hand gesture limitations in your modeling presentation). Practice turning and walking in the shoes you will be wearing during this presentation. Each contestant will model their fashion for a minimum of one minute. To conclude the Avant-Garde modeling performance, contestants must end their walk at the end of the catwalk directly in front of the crowd and maintain a stationary pose for at least 10 seconds. This will indicate to the judges that your walk has concluded and will give them some time to finish their scoring.

If a judge wants a closer look, they can call the contestant to the judge's table at this time. The contestant should return to this mark on stage after being asked to present to the judge's table in order to be ready for the Onstage Brief Q&A portion of the pageant.

Brief Onstage Q&A - 40 Points Possible Per Judge

Stage Presence 0 - 10 Points

Poise

Posture

Microphone Handling

Ability to Communicate 0 - 10 Points

Audible

Coherent

Answer Content 0 - 20 Points

Appropriate

Engaging

Authentic

The Brief Onstage Q&A category will occur directly following the contestant's Avant-Garde modeling performance. The MC will approach the contestant, who should be standing at the end of the catwalk following their Avant-Garde modeling performance. The MC will have two containers: one containing fun/silly questions and one containing serious questions. The MC will draw first from the fun questions container, read the question to themselves, and then verbally ask the contestant the question by reading it aloud twice. After the contestant answers, the MC will then draw from the serious questions container and follow the same process of reading the question to themselves, then verbally asking the contestant the question by reading it aloud twice.

Scoring will be based on personality and poise, the ability to communicate with the applicable technology, such as with a microphone, in front of an audience, and the context of the answer in relation to the topic given. Contestants should take a brief pause before answering the question. However, an extended delay will result in the deduction of points.

In order to accommodate any processing, comprehension, or communication needs; the Big Gay Market will email all contestants with a list of all possible questions for both categories at least 24 hours prior to the pageant. Contestants are welcome to prepare however they deem fit for this portion, but please refrain from using AI to construct your answer to any questions. Judges are looking for personality, authenticity, and presence. Judges are not looking for a specific 'correct answer,' will not be grading your grammar or vocabulary, and definitely are not hiring.

Talent - 30 Points Possible Per Judge

Showmanship and Props 0 - 10 Points

Visual Performance

Audio Performance

Drama

Prop Quality

Choreography 0 - 10 Points

Pacing

Utilization of Space

Coordination of Performance

Entertainment Quality 0 - 10 Points

Communication

Commitment

Confidence

Contestants will be judged on their quality of lip-sync, live vocal, or any other planned entertainment performance during the Talent competition.

Contestants are welcome to perform any talent or performance, provided that it meets the following criteria:

- The talent must be performed by the contestant only
- The talent must be able to be set up by the performer and/or their support individual in two minutes or less prior to the performance and the support individual must leave the stage area during the performance
- The talent must be able to be removed from the stage by the performer and/or their support individual in two minutes or less immediately following the performance
- The talent performance must be five minutes or less in duration
- The talent is performed safely with consideration of one's setting and ability level
- The talent must meet all conditions listed in the Performance Policies
- All talents are encouraged to have accompaniment by some type of music or sound component (live music or spoken word is also acceptable)
- Music should be screened by the performer prior to performance. Performers are not permitted to lip-sync or otherwise use or appear to use any derogatory terminology for which they cannot honestly claim to be part of the related minority demographic

Any props used during the talent performance must meet the following criteria:

- Only props that can be carried on stage by the contestant and their support individual will be allowed (maximum of 50lb per prop unless otherwise approved by Big Gay Market; if a prop is determined to be dangerous to move due to construction or weight, it may not be used)
- Props may not be bulky in size, should fit through standard doorways, should fit on the venue's stage or the immediate floor area in front of the stage without blocking the flow of attendee traffic
- Props that are an obstruction to other contestants or performers must be kept in a designated storage area and brought inside just prior to the contestant's turn at the talent competition

- Props should be removed immediately following the contestant's talent and returned to designated storage area
- Construction will be judged. Do not bring something on the stage you are not going to use or that does not have relation to your talent. If a prop unintentionally falls apart, collapses, or otherwise malfunctions on stage, points will be deducted from your score

Judges will be looking to see if the entertainment is of good quality, if it stirs an emotion(s), if it is convincing, choreographed well, and cohesively presented.