

Cosplay Guidelines

BOWERS MUSEUM

At Bowers Museum, our utmost concern is the safety and enjoyment of all attendees and the preservation of our art collection. To ensure a pleasant experience for everyone, **WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

- Please remember that Bowers Museum events are family-friendly occasions. Cosplays should be suitable for all ages and must not expose the body in a manner deemed indecent by the state of California and City of Santa Ana.
- Outfits should not obstruct pathways or entry points. Cosplays must be able to pass through standard doorways without causing a hindrance.
- Cosplays or props incorporating functioning wheels (e.g., anything intended for riding, pushing, or pulling) are not permitted within the premises. While we appreciate your creativity, we request that wheeled cosplays or props be reserved for photo opportunities only.
- Cosplays depicting realistic representations of American law enforcement, current military uniforms, first responders, emergency medical personnel, or government agents are prohibited. However, vintage, historical, non-current uniforms, or military/police-style cosplays may be subject to evaluation at the discretion of Bowers Museum (e.g., cosplays inspired by Resident Evil, Metal Gear Solid, etc.).
- Bare feet are not allowed.
- Bowers Museum reserves the right to deem any cosplay unacceptable and may request modifications or deny entry.

All rules and guidelines regarding cosplay at Bowers Museum are subject to updating and the discretion of onsite Museum staff. Bowers Museum reserves the right to deem any cosplay or prop unacceptable and may request modifications or deny entry.

Props Policy

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WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROPS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE COSPLAY EXPERIENCE. Therefore, Bowers Museum has implemented the following policy regarding **COSPLAY-RELATED PROPS:**

- For the safety of the art, no props may be brought into gallery spaces.
- Play-acting with props indoors is not allowed.
- Prohibited items include but are not limited to: projectile weapons, such as water pistols, silly-string guns, and ping-pong pistols; hard material bladed weapons, even if sheathed; explosives, chemicals, or items that may cause annoyance to other attendees (e.g., smoke powder, sparklers, fireworks); blunt weapons, including brass knuckles, clubs, and nunchaku; hard prop weapons made of metal, wood, fiberglass.
- All prop weapons must be non-working and peace-bonded. Peace-bonding involves zip-tying the weapon to indicate it cannot be used. Peace-bonded prop weapons must be presented to the Bowers Museum Admissions Desk for inspection by Museum Security. Peace-bonding from previous events does not apply. Items producing light or sound must also undergo inspection for peace-bonding.
- These rules pertain exclusively to cosplay prop weaponry. **Bowers Museum strictly prohibits the use or presence of real weapons on its premises, with any violation reported to the appropriate authorities.**
- When not within Bowers Museum areas or property, we request that cosplay-related prop weapons be appropriately covered or stored in bags.
- Signs should not be attached to sticks; they must be handheld and of an appropriate size without any solicitation.

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