



Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras 2022 Parade - Visual Story

WHAT IS A VISUAL STORY

Visual stories are used to prepare a person for and increase the predictability of a new environment or situation.

This helps bring familiarity to a process and to reduce anxiety and stress.

This visual story is written in plain English and uses pictures to make it accessible for everyone.

Developed in partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)



Aspect
Autism Friendly

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ABOUT MARDI GRAS

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (SGLMG) is an LGBTQI+ organisation that produces the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and Festival and several other events and supportive initiatives throughout the year.

SGLMG began in 1978 as a political protest for equality and now:

- celebrates LGBTQI+ identity
- advocates for equality
- promotes diverse voices

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras was established on the values of acceptance and inclusion. We are dedicated to making it an accessible and inclusive event for all visitors.

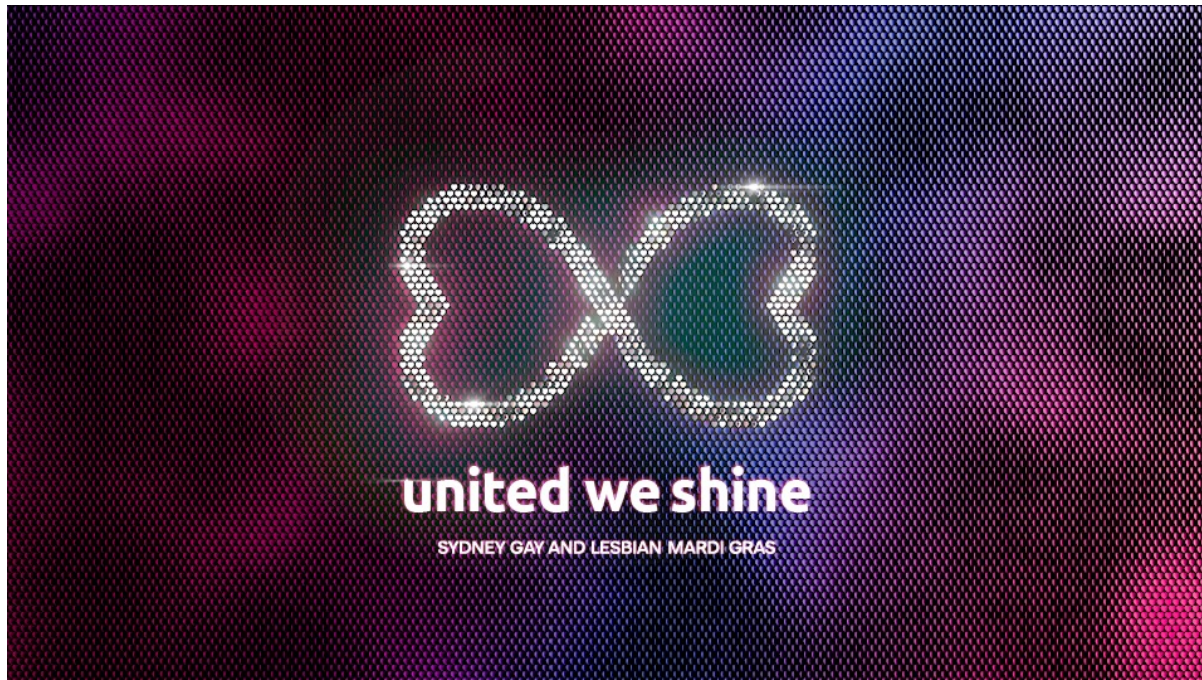


ABOUT MARDI GRAS PARADE



The Mardi Gras Parade is:

- A celebration of LGBTQIA+ people and allies
- An opportunity for LGBTQIA+ to connect with each other
- Held at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) in 2022



United We Shine

Looking towards 2022, the future for our rainbow family is brighter than it has ever been. But this doesn't mean there won't be challenges for us along the way - of particular concern both at home and abroad are the attacks on our Trans and Gender Diverse communities.

Our theme **UNITED WE SHINE** signifies that when we band together, we shine brighter. It is a rallying call to stand up against hate and inequality, reminding us that when we rise as a collective, our message of love and inclusion is heard louder.

We only need to look at our history to be empowered by the strength and resilience of LGBTQI+ people - we have the power to create a more equitable society.

Now is the time for us to unite. This is our time to shine.

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE PARADE?

**Sydney Cricket Ground, Driver Ave,
Moore Park NSW 2021**

Saturday 5th March 2022

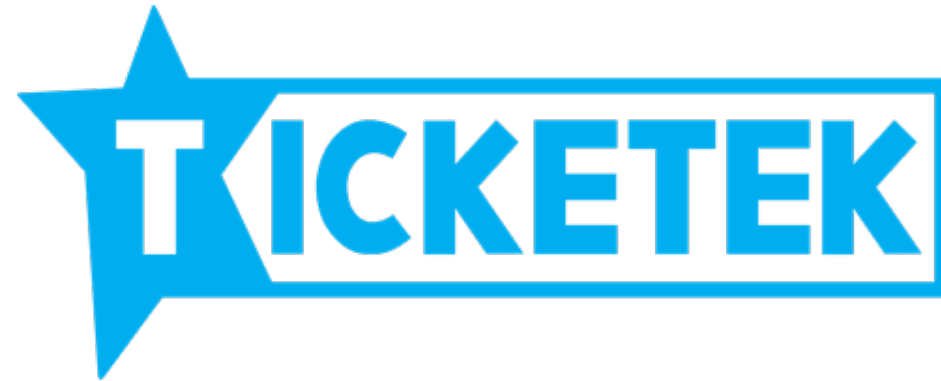
EVENT TIMES *(All times are
approximate and subject to change):*

4:45pm: Doors open for
ticketholders with pre-parade
entertainment

6:00pm: Parade starts

10:30pm: Parade ends





HOW CAN I BOOK TICKETS TO THE PARADE?

Tickets to the Parade are on sale now! I can book my ticket, including accessible tickets at this [Ticketek link](#)

If I need help or more information, I can fill out the form on the Ticketek page. Then, Ticketek staff will call me, and help me to book my ticket

Note: Tickets are almost SOLD OUT

ACCESSIBILITY AT THE SCG

Mardi Gras have worked closely with Sydney Cricket Ground to ensure that our Parade is accessible for spectators. Accessibility features include:

- There is dedicated wheelchair accessible seating.
- Wheelchair accessible toilets and bars are located nearby
- Hearing loops are not available.
- There will be Auslan interpreters at the designated seating for people who are hard of hearing. I must book a ticket in the dedicated Auslan seating to access the interpreters
- Most of the toilets have tactile Braille signs. The Brewongle and Churchill Stands do not have tactile Braille signs.
- Assistance animals are welcome. If I have a certificate/proof of registration, I should bring this with me.
- Patrons who require the assistance of a companion or carer can receive a complimentary ticket issued to the Companion Card holder.
- There is a Quiet Room available, for people who feel overwhelmed or need a break
- Hidden Disability Sunflower Lanyards available for free at the Quiet Room. Venue staff are trained to identify and support people wearing the lanyard

If I need more information about accessibility I can:

- call 02 9383 0900 or
- email accessibility@mardigrasarts.org.au
- Visit <https://www.mardigras.org.au/parade-accessibility>



ABOUT THE QUIET ROOM

I can use signs to find **Gate A** to visit the **Quiet Room** and collect my **Sunflower Lanyard**.

The **Quiet Room** is located directly through **Gate A**, in a room called the **Barrel Room**. I will walk down the path past the Members Pavilion to the **Quiet Room**.

I can ask security, Mardi Gras staff or SCG staff to help me find the Quiet Room. The **Quiet Room** is for anyone who may feel overwhelmed and need a calm space to recover.

It is a relaxing and supportive environment to calm down or feel safe to meltdown.

The room is supported by Aspect volunteers who are trained in supporting people with hidden disabilities. They are friendly and can help me if I need.

The Quiet Room has:

- Seating and bean bags
- Low lighting
- Curtained room to reduce sound and light
- TV screens on mute to watch the parade
- Bottled Water
- Charging stations for devices
- Signage about expected use of the space and how to get help





- I will need to show my COVID-19 vaccination certificate or a medical exemption when I arrive.
- If I feel unwell I will stay at home. If I have recently had a COVID-19 test I will stay at home until I receive my results
- I can choose to wear a facemask which will help me stay healthy and safe.
- I will wash or sanitise my hands regularly
- I will try to stay near my seat as much as I am able
- I will try to stay 1.5 metres from other people where possible
- Mardi Gras is a cashless event. I will have to use my debit or credit card instead of cash. I can buy a prepaid credit card such as VISA before I come if I don't feel safe to bring my credit card.

I will plan my journey to and from the parade before I visit.

Public Transport

I can plan my trip on the TransportNSW website transportnsw.info/sydney-mardi-gras-parade

I will wear a mask and tap on & off when using public transport.

I can catch the light rail, or a bus to Moore Park.

There will be extra light rail trains and buses to and from Moore Park to make it easier for everyone. It will be busy, with lots of people, so I might have to wait in line.



Light Rail

I can catch the light rail to and from Moore Park.

The Moore Park stop is located on Anzac Parade. It is a 250m walk to the SCG. The stop is on the L2 Randwick or L3 Kingsford lines. I can connect to those lines at Wynyard, Town Hall or Central.



Buses

I can catch the bus to Moore Park. There are lots of regular buses that run to Moore Park. They stop on Anzac Parade. It is a short walk to the SCG. I can also catch an Express shuttle bus between Central Station and Moore Park before and/or after the parade. I can find the Express shuttle bus stop on Chalmers Street.



Trains:

The closest train stations to the SCG are Central. I can catch the train to Central. Then I can change to either the light rail or a bus.

Driving

There will be lots of traffic, and limited parking available. If I have to drive, I will plan to get there early and/or travel with a group. Driver Avenue will be closed on the day of the event. I will follow the signs and listen to the traffic marshalls.

There will be limited parking available. It will fill up fast. Parking is located at:

[Sydney Girls and Sydney Boys High Schools](#), Moore Park – The car park will open from around 2.30pm for cars, vans and motorcycles. The parking rate is \$20.00. EFTPOS is available with a small surcharge. Vehicle entry is via Cleveland Street. It's a short walk (600m) to the SCG via the Anzac Parade Pedestrian Bridge.

[Wilson Carpark at the Entertainment Quarter](#) (EQ) in Moore Park. I can book my parking before the event. I can visit [their website](#) for parking rates (flat rate event fees apply), operating hours and to book a parking space. Parking is available on the ground floor for the mobility impaired. Entry via Errol Flynn Boulevard from Lang Road.

Drop Off and Pick Up:

I could catch a rideshare or taxi so that I don't have to find parking. Driver Avenue will be closed on the day of the event, so I will tell the driver to drop me off at Errol Flynn Boulevard. Or I can tell the driver to drop me off further away and walk to the SCG. I can follow the directions of the volunteers to find the SCG.



WHAT SHOULD I BRING

The Mardi Gras Parade is an outdoor event. I will check the weather conditions on the day.

If it is going to be a sunny day, I could bring:

A hat
Sunglasses
Sunscreen



If it is a rainy day, I could bring:
Warm and weatherproof clothing
Plastic ponchos

If the Parade is delayed or cancelled due to severe weather conditions, Mardi Gras will let me know via social media.

I can follow Mardi Gras on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest updates and information.

I should also bring:

- A face mask.
- A phone with key contacts saved, and an “In Case of Emergency” (I.C.E) phone number stored
- Anything that may help me to cope with crowds, lights and noise (e.g. headphones, earplugs, visor/sunglasses, sensor)
- A small water bottle. I can re-fill my water bottle at the water stations at the SCG



WHAT NOT TO BRING

When I enter the SCG, security staff will search my bag to make sure I didn't bring anything I shouldn't.
I should only bring 1-2 small bags to make the process quicker and easier.

Things that I am not allowed to bring include:

- Food or drink (unless they are needed for medical reasons). There will be food and drink available to purchase at the SCG
- Alcohol. There will be alcohol available to purchase at the SCG
- Fireworks or Explosives (includes flares and sparklers)
- Illegal Drugs or Substances of any kind (prescription medication is OK)
- Promotional Material Including Banners, Stickers, Signs and Flyers
- Any materials that display racist, sexist or homophobic attitudes
- Weapons of any kind
- An umbrella (it blocks the view of people behind you)

NB: The SCG is a non-smoking venue. I will have to exit the venue to smoke. I can show my ticket to get back into the venue after I finish smoking.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. I can enter the SCG through any gate. The most easily accessible gates are **Gate A** or **Gate E**.
2. I will show my ticket and my proof of vaccination to security staff. They will also check my bags to make sure I don't have anything that I'm not allowed to bring
3. I can visit the Quiet Room when I arrive at the SCG. I can also choose to collect my Sunflower Lanyard at the Quiet Room. SCG staff are trained to identify that people wearing the lanyard might need a bit of extra time, support or understanding.
4. I will find my seat. I will stay near my seat as much as possible throughout the event. I can feel free to dance and sing. I can leave my seat to go to use the toilet, buy food and drink, or visit the Quiet Room
5. I can choose to watch the pre-parade entertainment or visit the Quiet Room
6. At 6pm the parade will start
7. Between 6pm and 10:30pm I will watch the parade and performances. I can visit the Quiet Room whenever I need to
8. At 10.30PM the parade will end and I will go home

PERFORMANCES AT MARDI GRAS

Some of the floats I will see include:

The 78ers

Dykes on Bikes

First Nations

Neurodiversity Rainbow
(Aspect)

Some of the musical artists performing include:

Darren Hayes

Mo'Ju

Vanessa Amorosi

Timothy Springs

Prinnie Stevens

Charlie Villas

Division 4

The Wiggles



WHAT CAN I EXPECT

What I will see:

- People of all ages
- Same-sex or non-binary couples
- People who do not appear as either male or female
- Groups of people marching around the SCG
- Brightly coloured floats
- Performances by musical artists
- People in costumes (some might not be wearing much clothing)
- Some nudity
- People hugging and kissing
- People dancing, yelling and singing
- Drunk people
- Gender neutral bathrooms
- Security, police and ambulance paramedics. They are here to keep me safe.



SENSORY EXPERIENCES

Some sensory experiences I might notice include:

- Fireworks and bright lights
- Smoke effects
- Confetti
- Announcements over the speaker
- Bright TV screens with lots of moving images
- Loud music and performances
- Crowd noise (e.g. singing, chanting, cheering)
- Busyness and crowding
- Smells from food vendors & alcohol
- Waiting in line

To help me cope, I can:

- Bring noise cancelling headphones, or earplugs
- Bring a hat and/or sunglasses
- Bring sensory items
- Visit the Quiet Room



WHERE CAN I GET HELP

Parade teams and Parade volunteers:

Throughout the event Mardi Gras have a team of volunteers. I can ask them for help. I should also listen to them and follow their directions. They are here to keep me safe. Parade volunteers will be wearing different coloured shirts, depending on their role. This includes:



Image to be added
later

Image to be added
later

Image to be added
later

First Aid: If there is an emergency, or someone needs immediate medical attention, I need to notify Parade volunteers or security. They will help to organise medical teams who are located on site. If I request help, I must make sure that I can be easily found by medical teams.

Security: There will also be security staff throughout the SCG. They are here to keep me safe. They are also trained to identify that people wearing a Sunflower Lanyard might need a bit of extra time, support or understanding.

SCG Staff: I can ask SCG staff if I need help, or if I am lost.

Quiet Room: Aspect volunteers will be located at the Quiet Room. I can let them know if I need help. They are trained to support people with hidden disabilities, and can help to organise medical teams if needed.

At 10:30 the parade will finish. I must leave the SCG soon after the parade is finished. I will plan my journey home from the parade before I visit. If I live close-by, I can walk. I can also choose to go to another party or event after the parade.

Public Transport

I can catch a bus to Central Station. Or I can catch the light rail. There will be lots of other people trying to get home safely too. I can plan my trip on the TransportNSW website transportnsw.info/sydney-mardi-gras-parade

Driving

If I parked near the SCG, it might take a while to get through the traffic. There are lots of other people trying to get home safely too. I should be patient. Driver Avenue will be closed on the day of the event.

Rideshare and taxis

After the parade, it will be very busy, with lots of people leaving. Driver Avenue will be closed on the day of the event. I will tell the driver to pick me up on Errol Flynn Boulevard OR I can choose a pick-up location further away from the SCG, to avoid delays. I could also catch a taxi from the permanent taxi rank on Errol Flynn Blvd off Lang Rd. It is a short walk from the SCG.

Pickup

If someone else is picking me up, I should make sure that we've agreed where will meet, and that we can easily contact each other. I should plan to be picked up away from the SCG, to make it quicker and easier.



thank you!

SYDNEY GAY AND LESBIAN MARDI GRAS

Thank you for attending the Mardi Gras Parade, we hope you had a great time and leave feeling like
“United We Shine”