

Make the character move

Car-inspired costumes in Johannesburg, transit mascots in California and the files behind a good performance. Five practical findings for makers.

Craft

Events

Photography

Performance

5 min read · CosplayGrid editorial

01 / CRAFT

UPCOMING CONTEST · EXISTING ENTRY WINDOW



Turn a vehicle into a wearable character

The Toyota Gaming Engine's Carsplay contest invites original Toyota-inspired builds at Comic Con Africa, Johannesburg Expo Centre, on September 26. Its official page lists entries August 21–September 25; the entry form remains available. Entrants must be 18 or older, hold a valid event ticket and attend in person, solo or in teams of up to four. Five equally weighted criteria include

craftsmanship, interpretation and resourcefulness. Cardboard builds are explicitly welcome; expensive materials are not a scoring category. [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Translate one recognizable vehicle feature into a silhouette, then test walking and turning before adding surface detail. Check-in is 14:30 and judging 15:00 on September 26, local time. Read the full rules; large costumes need a nominated handler.



An “Active” badge is not a deadline extension

VIECC’s summer photo round, “Suspended in Time,” lists September 9 as its deadline and mid-September for results. The page still marks the round “Active”; no extension is verified, so this is not an open call. Its theme asks for motion frozen in a frame, from a cape’s flutter to a quiet gesture. The rules center real photographer–cosplayer collaboration and require finalists to supply an unedited original; purely generative images and pure 3D renders are excluded. [\[3\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Keep the original capture and an editing record alongside the finished portrait. Plan one movement that tells the character’s story. Treat the forthcoming autumn round as upcoming, not open, until its actual entry instructions are confirmed.



Accepted performers have a second deadline

Youmacon’s performance rules require accepted entries to upload their prescreening skit and prepared media by September 30, 2026. This is an asset deadline for accepted performers, not a new application opening. The screening must show the intended stage action, including tricks and combat, but costumes are not required. The organizer recommends easy-to-read supertitles along the top of background video for accessibility and says submitted media will play as supplied, without staff editing. [\[4\]](#) [\[8\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Rehearse with the actual soundtrack and export settings now. Check the official MP3/MP4 and landscape-video requirements, embed the audio in video, and bring a backup flash drive. This extends yesterday’s build-record theme from photos into performance files.



The contest starts before the festival doors

BART's free Let's Glow! Anime Festival runs September 19, 4–9 pm, at Warm Springs/South Fremont Station in California. Its linked contest guide puts first-come on-site sign-ups earlier, at 1–3 pm, with a mandatory 3–4 pm meeting and a 4–6 pm contest. There are no advance contest sign-ups. Walk-on and craftsmanship are separate routes; a special BART mascot award joins the program. BART prohibits prop weapons of every material, with no peace-bonding station. [\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Use the contestant schedule, not only the festival start time. Prepare two to four poses for a walk-on of no more than a minute, and leave weapon props at home. A festival RSVP does not reserve a contest slot.



Baylee is a lesson in costume “pulling”

BART links Crafty Sorceress's Baylee guide as preparation for its festival. Baylee is a goat-inspired transit mascot, not a newly launched anime character. The maker explains “pulling”: selecting clothing from stores, thrift sources or existing stock, then adapting it to a design. Her breakdown pairs modern streetwear shapes with horns, a wig and a layered skirt, and offers sewing options as well as purchased pieces. This is an existing guide, not a new tutorial release. [\[5\]](#) [\[7\]](#)

FOR YOUR NEXT BUILD

Before buying fabric, sort your reference into “already own,” “alter” and “make.” Preserve the character's strongest shapes and colors; test the outfit in the expected weather. Consult competition-specific construction rules before entering a pulled costume.

MAKE A PLAN

Event radar

Dates as listed at publication. Follow the organizer for changes.

Sep 19

through Sep 19, 2026

Let's Glow! BART Anime Festival ↗

Warm Springs/South Fremont Station · California, USA

Free festival 4–9 pm local time. Contestants need earlier on-site sign-up and briefing; see finding 04.

Sep 24

through Sep 27, 2026

Comic Con Africa · TTGE Carsplay ↗

Johannesburg Expo Centre · South Africa

Convention dates shown. Carsplay is September 26; listed entry deadline September 25.

FANDOM → TECHNIQUE

On the floor

Scope: the cited organizer rules and maker guide, not crowd observation or global fandom rankings. Build suggestions are editorial interpretation. [1] [4] [5] [7]

Vehicle fandom → character design

TTGE's Carsplay brief explicitly permits literal, humanoid, fantasy and stylized interpretations. Scope: this contest, not a wider popularity claim.

Transit mascots → closet cosplay

BART's program and linked Baylee guide connect a local fandom with clothing alteration. The guide offers a practical starting point, not participation statistics.

Performance → accessible storytelling

Youmacon recommends supertitles in background video. A readable line of dialogue can help a stage story reach more of the room.

TRY THIS

Make the invitation specific.

Invite a maker or photographer to a short movement test. Ask them to check one turn, one pose and one moment of character storytelling—then change the detail that gets in the way.

Sources

1. TTGE · official Carsplay competition rules ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 13, 2026
2. TTGE · current entry form ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 13, 2026
3. VIECC · official cosplay photography contest ↗
Published / updated Aug 18, 2026 · Checked Sep 13, 2026
4. Youmacon · official performance and media requirements ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 13, 2026
5. BART · official anime festival and mascot guide ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 13, 2026
6. Crafty Sorceress · BART contest rules and schedule ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 13, 2026
7. Crafty Sorceress · Baylee costume guide ↗
Publication date not listed · Checked Sep 13, 2026
8. CosplayGrid · September 12 edition ↗
Published / updated Sep 12, 2026 · Checked Sep 13, 2026

Checked September 13, 2026. Five planning-led findings: existing rules, upcoming events and an older craft guide, not five overnight announcements. Both available prior editions were reviewed; unchanged event reminders are omitted. Today's improvement is deadline-state checking at VIECC and BART, alongside South African source breadth. No sponsored placements; no event photography reproduced.
