

CLAN GUIDELINES



What is the San Clan effigy?

The Clan is a sculptural representation of a San rock painting which allegedly represents unity of intent and is the chosen central effigy at the AfrikaBurn event. It is the equivalent of 'the man' at Burning Man, and is a commissioned artwork, a vital part of our infrastructure, which in its process and finished product should represent the ethos (or elements of the ethos) that AfrikaBurn's intended work in the world is.

The Clan is not a logo, it is a signifier of what we do. For info on the origin of the image,

see our [History of The San Clan page](#).

Since inception the Clan project has been championed and interpreted by different artists each year, which has created a diversity of experience and expression.

Tiny History

2007: Clan was built by community members including Paul Jorgensen, Brendan Smithers, Uys Van Der Merwe, Jonah De Lange, Gerald, Up Rize, Abarra and those that pitched in.

2008: Paul Jorgensen, Brendan Smithers

2009: Egon Tania & Crew

2010: Nathan Honey and Marco Guidetti

2011: Nathan Honey, Isa Marques and Robert Weinek

2012: Mike Rule & Crew

2013: Brendan Smithers & TNT

2014: Brendan Smithers & TNT

2015: Nathan Honey & The Sutherland Community

2016: Design: Brendan Smithers and Monique Schiess, build: Mike Rule & Crew

2017: Egon Tania & The Gentis Clan

Everyone is invited to submit a Clan proposal.

We are open to the possibility that design and build of the Clan can be done by separate crews. Do you have an idea for the Clan? Here's some guidelines:

Your proposal must include the sculpture, its intended lighting as well as the burn plan.

1) The design must be (at least) an approximation of the Clan.

If a proposed design represents massive departures from the original rock painting, ArtCom will convene over this and advise and confer with the Directors of AfrikaBurn.

- It should be worthy - beautiful, inspirational, a conscious manifestation of the guiding principles of AfrikaBurn.
- While this is not one of the design criteria, consider a reference to the theme.
- It does not need to be complex.
- It must work as a sculpture.
- And it must work as a burn.
- Consider the proportions of the Clan form and its relationship to people and

- setting.
- **Ideally the Clan will be a 3D sculpture**, viewable from all sides.
- The preferred minimum height is 15m.
- Consider how people are going to react/respond to the space beneath and around the Clan.

2) Designs must be presented in a visually accurate way.

It is important that we can see the intended image and proportions of your Clan.

If you have (access to) the skills you could draw it up on a technical program like Sketch Up, but a hand made drawing on a serviette will also do it.

We will need to see a maquette so we can assess it as a 3D representation, to scale. Not immediately, but sometime soon after the first presentation.

3) In line with our principles, the Clan should be constructed out of waste materials or recycled / environmentally-friendly wherever possible.

Materials are to be considered from a burn perspective too. Avoid materials with a high glue or chemical content (such as mdf).

4) Consider the pyrotechnics carefully.

You are building a sculptural fire.

Consider the following:

- how you would like your sculpture to burn and fall.
- The speed of the burn, too long and people lose focus, too short and people miss it.
- is there a performance aspect to the lighting of the Clan?

Seek advice. Ask around, our Pyro team. Clan-builders and other large fire sculpture builders at AfrikaBurn have accumulated knowledge and experience, make use of it.

5) The Clan must be lit at night.

This is an integral part of your design and your budget. As an aesthetic element, as part of the design of your piece as well as for safety reasons, it's mandatory to light the piece and to keep it lit throughout the event.

Lighting also protects the artwork from accidental damage, and from accidentally damaging someone or something in the dark.

Consider collaborating with projectionists.

6) The team.

Remember that this enormous piece will need to be constructed. Consider our ethos in your team building. We encourage projects that promote skills exchange amongst a diverse team. Ideally your project will reach out, create opportunities and develop skills.

Bringing in paid professional contractors and service providers is not encouraged.

Collaborate – this is the glue that holds Tanka Town together and makes it the amazing space that it is. Collaborations plug the holes in skill sets and can elevate aspects of the piece to levels that you might not have considered.

7) Be honest and clear about what you are capable of, technically and practically.

What you build must be as was pitched and agreed to. This is particularly important around the design of the Clan and the budget.

Technical considerations:

- Wind load (Tankwa can experience incredibly high winds, which will exert considerable force on a 15m or higher structure).
- Anchor points.
- An erection plan.
- if you are going to be needing heavy lifting equipment, riggers,

The Art Committee will assess proposals from a concept, design, construction, and a cost perspective.

What comes next?

- You'll be asked to generate a detailed budget with all expenses listed.
- You will need to create a detailed timeline for production

If your Clan proposal is selected, we will be in close contact about pretty much everything, but here are the basics that you can count on:

- Agreeing to the final details of the of the Clan contract and signing of it.
- Strict adherence to the timeline, milestones, kidney stones and budget.
- Full and detailed accounts kept and consolidated, together with all supporting invoices and receipts. This is for audit compliance.
- You'll need to submit Monitoring and Evaluation surveys.
- Focus on constructing the Clan first, and any other sculptural elements second. You have a responsibility to the event to ensure that Clan effigy is present.
- Make provision for weather days. Allow plenty of time for the finish.
- Don't underestimate the time this will take. It is much harder working in the desert than in a controlled environment. It is harder than you imagine and will take longer than you think.
- Do as much beforehand as possible. If at all possible, plan for a dry run in town. Assembling your sculpture in a controlled environment beforehand gives you the opportunity to identify any problems (both structural problems and assembly issues) beforehand and resolve them in advance. Once you get to the desert, you will be reassembling a puzzle you have already solved.
- The Clan will burn on the Friday night of the event, weather permitting.
- Performances prior, during and/or after ignition of the sculpture are open to

collaborators, and will be handled by you with the help of the Art Committee if needed.

- Ignition of the piece is the choice of the Clan builder in consult with the Art Committee.
- The cleaning the Clan site is done by the Clan Crew.