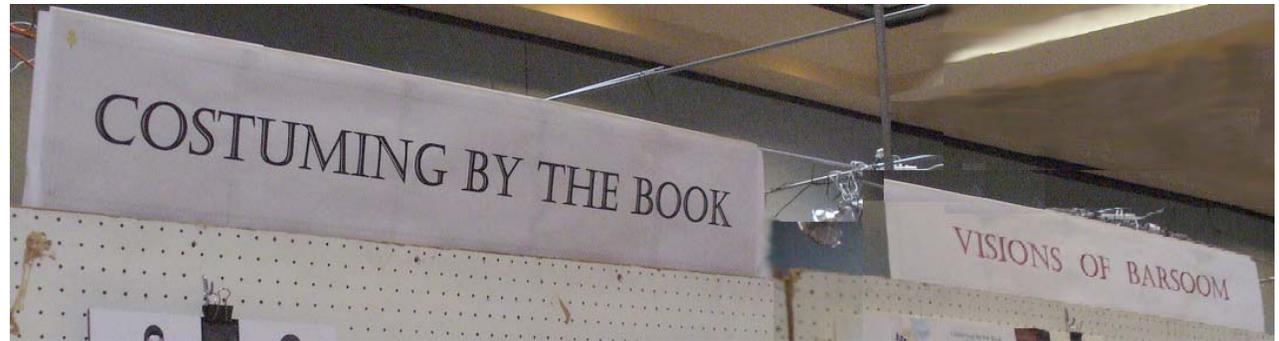# Costuming by the Book Exhibit

The Art Show

One of the goals for this project was to show how the costume design process works, and the diversity of results that can come out of it. The teams felt that it was important to give BayCon attendees as much time as possible outside the panel presentations to explore the designs and read our commentaries.

With that in mind, we approached the head of the BayCon Art Show with a proposal to include an exhibit of our designs in the show. We knew that we were asking for space that he could have sold otherwise, and hoped he would agree that the exhibit adds value to the art show.

He not only agreed, but also became an enthusiastic supporter of the project. He generously gave us two adjacent 8ft wide by 4ft high exhibit boards in a prime location, the equivalent of four artists slots. We added a title banner above the two boards to tie the exhibit together.

In addition to costume drawings, each team included a one-page overview of their design concept, descriptions of the designs, and fabric swatches to give some idea of the materials they envision. One of the teams went so far as to create original fabric swatches when they could not find

commercial ones that matched their concept. Two teams created physical artifacts that, due to constraints of the exhibit space, they were unable to display. They showed them during their presentations instead.
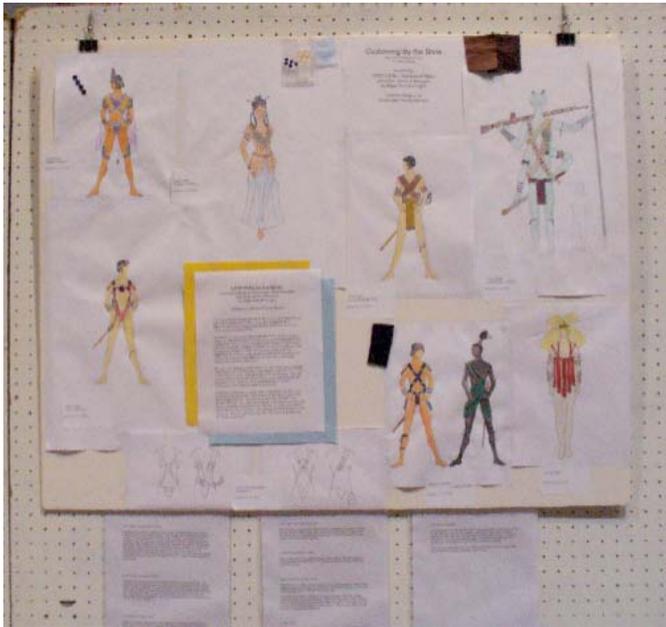
While the teams were hanging the exhibit, we had several surprises. At five weeks out, everyone was worried about having enough to fill their space. When we hung the exhibit on Friday afternoon, we were all surprised at how much material we had. Several teams even had to make choices about what to hang in their space.

The second surprise was how diverse, yet familiar, each teams' designs were. We were to create designs for the three principal characters, plus several others of our choosing to round out our concept. Each team made very different design choices based on their conceptualization of Barsoom (Mars), yet we could all immediately appreciate and admire how the other teams

handled the designs for the common characters and the other characters they chose to represent.

The third surprise was the different medium each team used to render their designs (see next page)

The biggest surprise, though, was the number of people viewing the exhibit. Viewers started gathering as we put up the exhibit, and none of the team members remembers seeing the exhibit empty when we went by the art show. Whenever any of us were at the exhibit, people were eager to discuss our designs and the overall project. We all hoped people would enjoy the exhibit, but we did not expect the level of interest we saw. The art show head was also happy because he felt the exhibit added to the show and generated additional traffic.

Chris and Christy used crayon.

Phil and Kathe used colored pencil

Bryan and Mette used Photoshop and created transparencies to peel away layers of costumes.

Bruce and Dana created larger-scale watercolor renditions