

Executive Committees of the Nebuta Parade

Every year, 22 unique Nebuta floats are built and operated by executive committees, which are formed by representatives of businesses, schools, industry unions, and municipal governments that want to sponsor the festival. Each committee consists of a *hayashi* (festival music ensemble) to play melodies during the parade; *haneto* (festival dancers) for cheering on both the Nebuta float and the crowd; a *sensumochi* (Nebuta float conductor) who controls the float direction; and *hikite* (float pulling team), young men who push the Nebuta float. Besides a main Nebuta float, many executive committees also produce smaller Mae-Nebuta floats, which are often themed on the products, logos, or characters of the company or organization at the center of the committee.