

Citizen's Sculptures

The larger snow sculptures at the festival are based on planned themes, and are built by international teams, members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, and groups organized by corporate sponsors. However, the local community also has an opportunity to participate in the "Citizens' Snow Sculptures" category. Teams apply in advance and choose their own themes, which tend to reflect Japanese life and pop culture as well as aspects of Hokkaido. Perennial favorites are anime characters like Doraemon and the Minions.

The citizens' sculptures are created over several days leading up to the festival. Passersby often stop to watch the sculptures take shape and cheer on the teams making them. Once the festival starts, visitors can vote for their favorite citizens' sculpture using a special smartphone app, and the winner is announced on the last day. The citizens' sculptures can be found throughout Odori Park, with the majority located in Citizens' Square in 9-chome.