



The Light The World Parade

The Light The World Parade, a goodwill ambassador to the nations from Nashville, was the guest of the city of Athens, Greece, during the 2004 Olympic Games. Designed and built by the creative team at ARK 2 Studio, the all-volunteer parade members carried with them a formal letter from the mayor of Nashville, a key to the city and the flag of Tennessee, as a special gift from the "Athens of the South." As a result of the work accomplished in Greece, The Light The World Parade has been asked to perform in Beijing, China, before and during the 2008 Olympic Games. Over the last year, invitations have also arrived to bring The Light The World Parade to other major events through 2012.

With the help of friends, groups and companies in the Nashville area, the parade is now becoming a reality. The colorful, high-energy presentation includes dancers, athletes, street performers, puppetry, a color guard, a drill team, drum lines, costumes, flags, banners, special effects and portable surround sound. Under the direction of Ed James, The Light the World Parade seeks to demonstrate tangible joy and hope in a time of uncertainty for us all.

"Our project is a fine line between diplomatic, cultural and world relief," says James. "I have a real heart for the suffering of people going on around the world, even right here in the U.S., so I want to see

this parade bring some real happiness and smiles to peoples' lives. I believe everyone has the ability to make a difference. That's the most fulfilling thing you can do for others — touch them with compassion."

The Light The World Parade project is currently inviting individuals, organizations and companies from Nashville and the Tennessee area to give of their resources to the larger efforts yet to be accomplished.

James is available to present the vision and design of The Light The World Parade to interested partners.

The ARK 2 design group includes Matt and Dawn Davidson of Orlando, Florida, and Mark Neubauer and Ed James of Franklin. Over the past two decades, ARK 2 Productions has produced large-format digital and handmade artworks, architectural decorations, tour designs and special events,

including large-scale projects for the Saturn Homecoming, the Nissan Altima Premiere, Summer Lights Festival and performing artists such as Kenny Loggins, James Taylor, George Strait, Wynonna Judd, Amy Grant and many others. Most recently, Ed James has been working on the creation of The Music City Parade, a celebration of the arts of Nashville.

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PICTURED AT LEFT: ED JAMES
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