

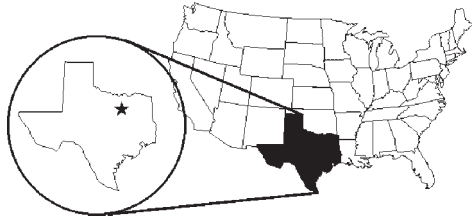
FORT WORTH, TEXAS



Population Rank: U.S. # 27
Texas # 6

Proportions: 4:7 (usage)

Adopted: 4 September 1968 (official)



DESIGN: The Fort Worth flag is a horizontal tribar of light blue, white, and green stripes in proportions of 2:3:2. Across the top stripe, in black block letters, is **FORT WORTH**, occupying most of the stripe. Centered on the green stripe, in similar letters, is **TEXAS**. The white stripe displays a frontal silhouette of a stylized black “Texas Longhorn” head stretching nearly the entire length of the flag.

SYMBOLISM: The blue stripe represents the space age to come (as foreseen in 1968). The white stripe depicts the Trinity River channel, and the green stripe symbolizes the green of the prairie. The longhorn head suggests one of the city’s nicknames, “Cowtown”, recalling Fort

Worth's early years, after railroads arrived, as a major center for the shipment of cattle.

HOW SELECTED: The city council and the art commission co-sponsored a contest for a city flag, the winner to receive \$250.

DESIGNER: Winner of the prize for his design was Richard Pruitt, a commercial advertising artist and Fort Worth resident.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Of the 153 entries submitted in the flag contest, 42 finalists were displayed in the Fort Worth Art Center. The public voted for a favorite flag, but the judges chose a different design, since they were not bound by the public vote. The judges were Dr. Richard Fargo Brown, curator for the Kimbell Museum; Jack T. Holmes, a public relations executive; and Mrs. Edwin R. Hudson, Sr., president of the Tarrant County Historical Society.

In November 1969, a Fort Worth flag was taken to the moon on the Apollo 12 flight by Cmdr. Alan L. Bean, a former Fort Worth resident and a graduate of a high school there.



FORMER FLAG: The earlier flag of Fort Worth was apparently unofficial. A flag maker, J. J. Langever, designed it in 1912. Also with proportions of 4:7 units, the flag has a white field with three horizontal red stripes placed across its center creating alternating white and red stripes in proportions of 1.25/.3/.3/.3/.3/.3/1.25. Superimposed on the center of the field over the red stripes is an elaborate design in light blue (perhaps faded from an earlier darker blue). Centered above the lowest red stripe is a city skyline, its narrow sky filled with industrial smoke depicted over it. Resting on this portion is a sort of pillar on which a panther crouches, facing the hoist. A horse and a sheep support the pillar. Over the panther curves **THE PANTHER CITY** in blue. Centered

above all is a five-pointed star, with half of each point shaded to give the appearance of three dimensions, and a halo of radiant lines around it. Below the skyline is a white rectangle bordered in blue, announcing “**WE’RE FOR SMOKE**”, also in blue. All this is supported by what appears to be a winged sphinx, an image popular at the time. Curved counter-clockwise below the image is another legend, **ALL ROADS LEAD TO FT. WORTH**, in blue. To illustrate this motto, 17 blue lines, apparently representing actual, individually labeled roads, emanate from behind the design in all directions.

The panther recalls another of the city’s nicknames, “**The Panther City**”, reportedly given to the city by travelers who had seen panthers in the brush near there, and even asleep on a city street, though no one seems to be certain about the name’s origin. The “**We’re for Smoke**” legend refers to the time before air pollution was a concern, when the city was courting heavy industry and factories with smoke stacks were common images of progress.

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