CLAIMS:

1. A ride vehicle, comprising:

a platform comprising a front portion and a rear portion; and

a row of seats disposed on the platform, wherein each seat of the row of seats is configured so that a passenger loads from a rear and once seated the passenger faces the front portion, and

the ride vehicle is configured so that each passenger enters the ride vehicle via the rear portion,

wherein each seat of the row of seats comprises a gesture tracking system coupled to a controller of the ride vehicle, wherein the gesture tracking system is configured to detect gestures of the passenger and to cause the controller to alter movement of the ride vehicle based on the detected gestures of the passenger.

2. The ride vehicle of claim 1, wherein each seat of the row of seats is configured to enable a seated passenger freedom of movement with their arms and upper torso to interact with a ride.

3. The ride vehicle of claim 1, wherein each seat of the row of seats comprises a back restraint, wherein the back restraint is configured to be lowered toward the platform to facilitate passenger loading from the rear and configured to be raised to contact a back of the passenger to facilitate seated support of the passenger.

4. The ride vehicle of claim 1, wherein each seat of the row of seats comprises a pad that is configured to be disposed about a front of the passenger when the passenger is seated.

5. The ride vehicle of claim 1, wherein the front portion and the rear portion are both open.

6. The ride vehicle of claim 1, comprising a transport system coupled to the platform, wherein the transport system is configured to enable movements of the ride vehicle in six degrees of freedom.

7. The ride vehicle of claim 1, wherein each seat of the row of seats comprises transducers to provide audible or tactile stimuli to a seated passenger.

8. The ride vehicle of claim 1, wherein each seat of the row of seats comprises an augmented reality or virtual reality headset configured to be worn by a seated passenger during a ride to enable the seated passenger to interact with an environment of the ride.

9. A ride system, comprising:

a ride vehicle comprising:

a platform;

a plurality of seats disposed on the platform and oriented in a same direction, wherein each seat of the plurality of seats is configured so that a passenger loads from a rear and once seated the passenger faces forward, wherein each seat comprises a pad configured to be disposed about a front of the seated passenger and a back restraint configured to both contact a back of the seated passenger in a seating configuration and translate out of the seating configuration into a loading configuration, wherein the pad and the back restraint are configured to enable the seated passenger freedom of movement with their arms and upper torso to interact with a ride environment while in the seating configuration, wherein each seat of the plurality of seats comprises a gesture tracking system coupled to a controller of the ride vehicle, wherein the gesture tracking system is configured to detect gestures of the passenger and to cause the controller to alter movement of the ride vehicle based on the detected gestures of the passenger.

10. The ride system of claim 9, wherein the ride vehicle is configured so that each passenger enters the ride vehicle from behind each seat of the plurality of seats.

11. The ride system of claim 9, wherein the back restraint of each seat is configured to be lowered toward the platform in the loading configuration to facilitate passenger loading of the plurality of seats from the rear and wherein the back restraint is configured to be raised to contact the respective backs of the seated passengers in the seating configuration.

12. The ride system of claim 9, wherein the ride vehicle comprises a transport system configured to transport the ride vehicle through the ride and to enable movements of the ride vehicle in six degrees of freedom.

13. The ride system of claim 1, comprising a plurality of augmented reality or virtual reality headsets configured to be worn by the passengers during the ride to enable the passengers to interact with an environment of the ride system.

14. The ride system of claim 12, wherein the ride vehicle is configured to move along a track of a dark ride system.

15. The ride system of claim 12, wherein the ride vehicle is an automated guide vehicle configured to move within a trackless environment.

16. The ride system of claim 12, wherein one or more components of each seat comprises transducers to provide audible or tactile stimuli to the seated passenger.

17. A method for loading a ride vehicle, the method comprising:

orientating the ride vehicle so that each passenger enters the ride vehicle from behind each seat of a plurality of seats, wherein each seat is oriented in a same direction, and each seat comprises a pad configured to be disposed about a front of a seated passenger and a back restraint configured to contact a back of the seated passenger;

maintaining the back restraint of each seat in a lowered position as passengers load respective seats from a rear; and

raising the back restraint of each seat to contact the back of the seated passenger so that the seated passenger is seated in an upright position between the pad and the back restraint to enable the seated passenger freedom of movement with their arms and upper torso to interact with a ride environment while securing the seated passenger to the ride vehicle,

wherein the ride vehicle comprises a gesture tracking system coupled to a controller of the ride vehicle, wherein the gesture tracking system is configured to

detect gestures of the passenger and to cause the controller to alter movement of the ride vehicle based on the detected gestures of the passenger.

18. The method of claim 17, comprising presenting a presentation to the passengers during the loading of the ride vehicle, wherein the presentation is presented before an open portion of the ride vehicle that the fronts of the seated passengers are oriented toward.