

## 2012 PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

### Parade Position: 70

**PARTICIPANT:** City of Torrance

**FLOAT THEME:** Looking Back – Moving Forward

**BUILDER:** Fiesta Parade Floats (626 610-0974)

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THEME TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE:** The theme *Looking Back --- Moving Forward* is a celebration of the kick-off of activities for the Centennial Anniversary of the City of Torrance in 2012 and its 58<sup>th</sup> year in the Rose Parade. The float is part of a yearlong celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary that includes special events and activities designed to promote the birthday of the City and its incredible spirit and long heritage. Regardless of being a new or life-long resident, one of the over 200,000 employees commuting to businesses within the city of Torrance each work day or a welcomed visitor of this exciting community, Torrance has something to offer and share with everyone. Torrance's unique "hometown" spirit and community pride continue to thrive because of continuing traditions like the Rose Parade. Community activities instill a sense of pride because they are carried out by thousands of enthusiastic volunteers. Torrance invites the world in celebrating the many talents and treasures of the City's rich history, people and events within this inspiring community. Its 2012 Rose Parade float entry officially kicks-off the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Torrance Centennial celebration of "*Looking Back --- Moving Forward*" with fun filled and educational events saluting its diverse residents, flourishing businesses and its safe community.

**NUMBER OF YEARS IN ROSE PARADE:** 58

**HEIGHT:** 24 FEET

**WIDTH:** 18 FEET

**LENGTH:** 35 FEET

**FLOAT DESCRIPTION:** An unbridled excitement about what has yet to come in a year long celebration fills the air with anticipation of special events and activities designed to pay homage to the City of Torrance's rich history and its bright expectations of the future. Looking back to the old fashioned elegance of an era gone-by this sentimental floral tribute showcases the valuable history and its citizens of the City of Torrance. Set beneath towering fanciful palm trees, and framed by floral-blooming springtime trees, a replica of the iconic Irving Gill double-arched railroad bridge sets the backdrop for this historic celebration. Draped in flowing patriotic bunting the historic electric Red Car trolley is dressed for the celebration and takes center stage. It is lined with pathways of colorful elegant gardens and topiary trees.

**FLOWERING DETAIL:** Brilliant red carnations with accents of gold strawflower petals and eucalyptus leaves are used to create the floral replica of the electric Red Car trolley. Glistening red and crisp white carnations, with blue sinuata statice, create the festive patriotic bunting which adorn the trolley and bridge. Natural rolled oats simulate the color and texture of aged concrete on the famed Gill bridge. Palm trees created from authentic palm fronds stand stately at the back of the float. Fanciful spring blossoming trees cascade with an abundance of lavender hybrid orchids, Bombay dendrobium orchids and sefora limonium. Topiary trees of pink roses float over gardens of thousands of Impulse roses.

**ANIMATION:** Trolley bell rings as the trolley wheels rotate. An on-board sound system enhances the fun-filled Centennial celebration.

**INNOVATIONS USED IN BUILDING THIS FLOAT:** Sophisticated hydraulic system enables the float to lower from 24 feet down to 16 feet in less than 45 seconds to travel under the freeway bridge and low wires on the parade route.

**FLOAT RIDERS:** Sixteen riders from the City of Torrance including Mary Hoffman, who's celebrating the completion of 16 consecutive years as President of the Torrance Rose Float Association, the organization that oversees decorating the float for Torrance. Mary is also a member of Torrance's Centennial Committee and a special education teacher in Torrance. Also, finishing 16 years as a Rose Float Board member is fellow float rider, Bob Habel. He served as the observer on the Torrance float in 2008 and 2010.

**SPONSOR INFORMATION:** In celebration of the Torrance's 100th anniversary of city hood, "Looking Back - Moving Forward" is indeed a salute to the City's abundant history, families and its incredible community pride and hometown spirit. Fun-filled and educational events and activities will start on January 1, 2012, and will culminate on Sunday, October 21, 2012 in celebration of the City's first 100 years. While celebrating their 58<sup>th</sup> year in the Rose Parade, the City of Torrance continues their tradition of community service by completely decorating their float with volunteers, mostly from Torrance and surrounding areas. The city is proud to have decorators between the ages of 13 to 80+ working side by side in a marvelous show of community camaraderie where new and old friendships grow. Its all-volunteer Board of Directors works year-round to keep Torrance represented in the Rose Parade. The eighteen Board members have a combined total of over 300 years of commitment and dedication to the City of Torrance floats.