

NEWS

5 crowd-pleasing floats from the 2020 Rose Parade

Some floats drew bigger reactions than others from people watching in person as well as those commenting via social media.



The City of Burbank float during the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA., on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. (Photo by Trevor Stamp, Contributing Photographer)

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The [2020 Rose Parade](#) saw 44 floats travel [5.5 miles across](#) Pasadena on Wednesday.

Many of the floats had corporate and nonprofit sponsors while others were sponsored by Southern California cities, but all brought their own flair to the annual New Year's Day parade, reflecting varied themes, colors, music and guests riding them.

Some floats drew bigger reactions than others from people watching in person as well as those commenting via social media.

Based on our wholly unscientific process, here are five of the [crowd-favorite floats](#) from the 2020 Rose Parade.

Pasadena's "Years of Hope. Years of Courage." and South Pasadena's "Victory at Last"

These two floats celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.



The South Pasadena float makes its way along the parade route during the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA., on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. (Photo by Trevor Stamp, Contributing Photographer)

For Pasadena, Nan Johnson, a retired professor and founding director of the Susan B. Anthony Center at the University of Rochester in New York, moved to Pasadena in 2018 and helped launch an effort that led to the city's entry, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

The Statue of Liberty replica holding the torch at the center of the float rose 25 feet, and the purple, gold and white flowers throughout represented the colors of the suffrage era.

The all-volunteer South Pasadena Tournament of Roses, which has been constructing and decorating floats since 1893, float also celebrates the centennial of the signing of the 19th Amendment. It was decorated with 150,000 flowers.



The Pasadena Celebrates 2020 float makes its way along the parade route during the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA., on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. (Photo by Trevor Stamp, Contributing Photographer)

Blueberry roses, purple carnations and statice adorned the hat, and decorating the sides of the float were more than a dozen varieties of roses including Freedom, Cherry O, Pink Floyd and Malibu. Parade-goers watching the float roll past enjoyed the sounds of "Maple Leaf Rag," an early ragtime piano composition by Scott Joplin.

- **Read more:** [This Rose Parade float celebrates 100 years since women won the right to vote](#)

Trader Joe's "It Takes a Flight of Fancy"

An award-winner for each of the past five years, Trader Joe's returned with a comical entry that featured fearless flyer and his friends using a pickle barrel transformed into a contraption that takes flight. Trader Joe's started in 1967 with a single location on Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena and now has more than 500 stores in 42 states.



The Trader Joe's "It Takes a Flight of Fancy" float makes it way through the parade route during the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA., on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. (Photo by Trevor Stamp, Contributing Photographer)

City of Burbank's "Rise Up"

Burbank's 88th float entry showed Paradise, a phoenix, rising some 28 feet from the ashes of the California wildfires that scorched the state in summer and fall of 2018.



The City of Burbank's float travels down Colorado Boulevard during the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA., on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. (Photo by Trevor Stamp, Contributing Photographer)

At the back of the float, three large fireball effects served as reminders of the destructive nature of fire while, at the front, a five foot wide waterfall represented the hope for new growth.

Floral materials included white, pink, lavender, cream, peach and pale yellow roses; yellow, bronze and orange mums, as well as red carnations, hydrangea, baby's breath, protea, orchids, iris and assorted tropicals.

City of Downey's "On the Wings of Hope"

Downey's 2020 entry featured a Japanese garden with floral ponds, cherry trees, a small temple and cranes — both natural and origami.



The Downey Rose Float Association's "On The Wings of Hope" rolls down Colorado Boulevard during the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA., on Wednesday, January 1, 2020. (Photo by Keith Durlfänger, Contributing Photographer)

The colored origami cranes taking flight above the float represented a form of healing and hope rooted in a Japanese legend that if one folded 1,000 origami cranes, one's wish would come true. Leading up to the parade, the Downey Rose Float Association held crane-making events with the ultimate goal to fold 10,000 origami cranes.

PIH Health volunteers generously contributed to reach this goal, filling baskets with cranes to gift to other non-profit organizations in the Downey community as well as PIH Health patients.

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs' "First Responders Bring Hope"

Firefighters, paramedics, police officers and other first responders are the epitome of hope in a time of need, as celebrated in the entry from Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, marking its 70th year in the Rose Parade.



The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Rose “First Responders Bring Hope” float during the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA., on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. (Photo by Trevor Stamp, Contributing Photographer)

The “Thank you 1st responders” banner at the front of the float was adorned with red large kidney beans, yellow whole split peas and white powdered rice. First responders, including a search-and-rescue dog, rode the float.

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