

# LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES ASSOCIATION

**2022 Winner of the Crown  
City Innovation Award!**



## JANUARY 2022 - NEWSLETTER

### President's Message



Another year has passed and the planning for the 2023 float is already underway. Having two years to build our most recent float certainly paid off with our float winning the Crown City Innovator Award. This is the first time the LCFTRA float has won such a prestigious honor. What makes this award even more outstanding is that in most cases this award is given to one of the “big” float builders and not a self-built. Credit is due to everyone who helped and made this such a big success.

I did think that last month’s newsletter article would be my last. However, I was mistaken, and this will be my final farewell.

As I have said so many times before, but maybe not enough, THANK YOU. Thank you to our many volunteers who contributed in so many ways. Our success is the sum of everyone’s contributions and involvement. I strongly believe that if one of our core functions as an organization fail, it hurts the entire group. It has been and will be the responsibility of Leadership to ensure that all parts of the organization are moving forward together.

For forty years LCFTRA has weathered good times and bad. However, through all those trials and tribulations the organization stands today hopefully stronger than before. We have always been able to produce an outstanding product and have the float ready for New Year’s Day.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have been involved with this organization. I will continue to be involved and supportive of the great work this group does for our community. The dedication of the people involved is a true testament to their passion for putting something together that brings our City and Community worldwide attention and notice.

And so, I sign off with a humble heart, which is filled with gratitude and pride. It is truly the involvement of the members and everyone's contributions that makes LCFTRA the outstanding organization it is today.

Float On, and Cheers!!

*Michael Davitt, President*



**Outgoing President, Mike Davitt and Incoming President, Ernest Koeppen**



# The Village



An Open Letter to LCFTRA

Happy New Year 2022! The culmination to a less than usual timeline since our last achievement, “*Dodobird Flight School*”; “*Who Says We Can’t?*” sure delivered once again!

With every challenge set before us this time around: the pandemic and its related blockades, supply challenges, extreme and ill-timed weather, personal and physical limits, timing, event re-scheduling just to name a few, we moved ahead and didn’t fall back. We pressed onward and actually challenged ourselves to meet and exceed the limits set before us. In truth, the harder something became the more resolved we became to overcome. This only happens with a team, a team of like-minded, ever-so-crazy individuals with a common goal to Dream and Achieve.

## It truly takes a Village.

Our Village has it all: the dreamers, the designers, the engineers, the blacksmiths, the artists, the painters, carpenters, riggers, our own Trolls, site and infrastructure, administration and management, supporters, donors or those just cheering us on, (hmmm..., guess we are short a Minstrel? Well, we ALMOST have it all!). Topping it all, the floral visionaries to beautify the metal beast we all create. No one is indispensable; we respect teach and learn from each other and our very deep talent pool. We all work and toil no matter the obstacle of the day. We all instinctively know the deadline that cannot change.

After the physical work we gather at the local pub for a wind-down and recap of the day. Even then, as with all day long, we continue to invent, brainstorm, envision and enhance – we create, and we make.

We all do it, and we do it all...

But why? Perhaps it’s just our way of starting a New Year, or maybe it’s important that we lead by example and put a smile on everyone’s face on day one. Our Village does its part to start every year for everyone on a happy and promising note of health, happiness, peace and prosperity for all. To be sure, a solid torch to bear

Karma (she frequently gets a bad rap, but she is our friend!) often sends some of that luck and joy back our way in the form of a successful trip down the boulevard, with a trophy/banner that thanks us for our efforts and lets us know we made a difference to so many. This year’s Crown City Innovation banner (our first!) was particularly gratifying in that we overcame so many obstacles and we persevered and put forth a strong resolve to satisfy and reassure our expectant viewers that we remain optimistic about what all can be done, despite the current socio-economic landscape, when we all rally together, cast aside differences, tread over obstacles, weather storms and travel a path sometimes paved, and sometimes we are doing the paving, to deliver on our promise to entertain, welcome and amaze. This is our Village; you all are this Village. We may not be as famous as the one up at the North Pole, but we are at least as vital, welcome, and respected.

No names here... the list is too long. No secret handshakes, we know who each other is, and we all know what we created and achieved. Pick up your phone and call or text at least 5 of your fellow Villagers and congratulate, raise a glass of (*insert beverage here,*) virtually or better yet, meet at the pub and raise your glasses!

A TOAST: We raise a glass to you all and thank and congratulate you all for your perseverance, commitment, sacrifice, dedication, creativity and sheer tenacity!

You all deserve to revel and reflect on a monumental task well done!

We Dreamt and We Achieved.

Imagine what we’ll do when we *Turn the Corner*.

Ernest Koeppen, John Wolhaupter, Dwight Crumb, **Construction Co-Chairs**

Grant Delgatty, **Design Chair**

[Construction@lcftra.org](mailto:Construction@lcftra.org)

# What is the Crown City Innovator Award?

It was first given in 2008 to encourage risk taking and new float building techniques to better awe the crowd. The innovations of its winners often inspire others in later years as a result of exceptional design and engineering. For example, CalPoly Pomona won this award in 2008 for innovating an artistic waterfall. Derivatives have appeared in floats ever since. Who has won it? Many big-budget floats: Trader Joe's (2020), 24 Hour Fitness (2019), Amazon (2018), Mutual of Omaha, Farmers, and others. In 12 parades, including this year, only two self-builts have won it: CalPoly and now us.

We are honored to have received it!

[Check out this clip from the December 31<sup>st</sup>, judging!](#)

Missed seeing the broadcast on TV? [View the video from KTLA!](#) Thanks to [Gayle Anderson](#) for her ongoing support throughout the year as we built the float!





# Deco



We did it!

Thanks to all the effort of the many, many decorators who came out to build this year's float, it got decorated. It even got finished a bit early!

[Check out this LCFTRA "Who Says We Can't?" Decoration Timelapse!](#)

We had dozens of people putting on individual beans. Many more vialing over 20,000 roses, and hundreds coming together to decorate an amazing float. We are so grateful for everyone who came out in wild weather to make this float happen.

Special thanks go to Pat, the head of weeds and seeds, who made a ton of bridge mix this year.

Thank you to our incredible crew chiefs: Kevin, Mark, Sara, Jen, Laura, Chrissy, Hannah, Evan, Ella, Kathleen, John, Charles, and Tanya.

Thank you to Arlene for creating the amazing dress and skirt for our dogs - the judges were so impressed by the innovation!

We are so grateful for everyone who worked together to make our dogs skate down Colorado Blvd. See you again under the bridge next December!

*Sara Wickersham, Jennifer Lazo, Deco Co-Chairs*

[Deco@lcftra.org](mailto:Deco@lcftra.org)



# 2022 Annual Meeting



We gathered together to not only celebrate another great Rose Parade float, but to enjoy a great taco bar and recognize our wonderful team of volunteers! As our outgoing Officers and Committee Chairs thanked their teams with unique and thoughtful gifts, we were reminded of the LCFTRA Vision, Mission & Values....

***We inspire creativity, nurture friendships, and build community!***

The La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association (LCFTRA) annually creates an animated, whimsical and humorous self-built float with a **mission** to:

**S**hape unique, positive experiences, and lifetime memories for our all-volunteer organization

**E**ncourage a broad sense of community by embracing diversity and inclusion

**E**ducate our youth by expanding their horizons with unique, interactive opportunities in the STEAM\* disciplines

**D**evelop, build, decorate, fund, and operate a unique, whimsical, and humorous float

LCFTRA realizes our vision and mission through core **values** that:

**S**timulate imagination for people of all ages and abilities

**E**mbrace inclusion and collaboration within our communities

**E**xcite volunteers to enjoy the experience and celebrate the achievement

**D**elight and entertain the world with our whimsical, humorous, and animated floats





## Remember When: A Past President Looks Back



### The Banners of LCFTRA from 1979 to 2022

From 'Horse Play' to 'Who Says We Can't?'

*"The easiest way to drive a float down the parade route is to follow a banner." Dustin Crumb*

From the beginning of the organization, LCFTRA has built award-winning floats. The organization won a banner every year from 1979 to 1987. Some of those were the early generation of banners that were determined by city sizes. However, in the early years there were two Founder's Trophies when that trophy was awarded specifically to self-builts. The early Judges' Special trophies were for most humorous or most whimsical: LCFTRA won two of those in the early years, setting the stage for the many repeats of the modern Bob Hope Humor Trophy. In those first 9 years were three floats for humor or whimsy, 2 Founder's trophies and 1 Animation trophy.

The next three-trophy streak started in 1988 and ended in 1991 with a single Humor and two Founders Trophies. The 1995 and 1996 floats added a pair of Animation Trophies. Then there was the strangely ignored 'Love in Bloom' with giraffes who had animated entwining necks. As Bob Neilson liked to remark, 'High Flying Fun' got an invented-on-the-fly banner for 'Exceptional Merit in Multiple Categories' as an apology for the omission of a banner for 'Love in Bloom'.

The early 2000s were mostly a banner desert with a single Founder's Trophy in 2000, our only Mayor's Trophy in 2003, and the newly named Bob Hope Humor trophy in 2004 with 'Cactus Practice', which featured one of the early attempts to synchronize our music to our animation. 2006 produced our accidental Theme Trophy for 'The Great Howldini' when the judges misread the theme as 'It's Magic' rather than 'It's Magical'.

From 2008 to 2022, the organization has only missed banners twice: the first was 2011 with 'Self-Built Float', an inside joke that no one got, and our last attempt to do floral in mostly white blooms. The second miss was in 2011 with '3-2-1 Dig' which was a float that just did not want to be built. Just about everything that could go wrong did, from Thanksgiving to the first successful run of the animation at 2nd judging.

During that period from 2008 to 2011 there were still two Animation Trophies, a Bob Hope Humor Trophy and our first and only Fantasy Trophy for 'Scissored Wizard'.

In 2012, the organization started its modern streak of 10 banners in a row, surpassing the founding streak of 9. This modern streak includes 6 Bob Hope Humor Banners, 2 Founder Banners, 1 Animation Banner and the 2022 Crown City Innovator Banner.

The dogs of LCFTRA have pulled in banners both in 2014 with 'Dog Gone' and now in 2022 with 'Who Says We Can't?'. The Crown City Innovator Banner was almost awarded to LCFTRA in 2014. Steve the Dogcatcher, in his flowing 'split pea' pants created by master tailors Arlene Buchmann and Randy Bartos, added a realistic touch to the running dogcatcher. The technique had never been tried before. One of the judges stopped by to talk to Dustin to tell him how close we came to Crown City that year. However, Cal Poly's water feature carried the day. While major commercial sponsors have won this banner, only Cal Poly and now LCFTRA have won for the self-built community. Besides the impressive swaying palm tree mechanism and the innovative track that allowed the dogs to look like they were actually performing skate park tricks, master tailors Buchmann and Bartos created the flowing split pea dress for the Sheltie and the haute couture poodle skirt for the poodle, a fact noted by the judges at first judging.

Since September the Construction and Site teams have contributed 5,100 hours and Deco teams 4,500 hours (most of the Deco hours during the last two weeks of the year) to pull this off. Well over 1,000 people contributed the hands to get this done and the rest of the organization contributed the dollars to overcome pandemic pricing shortages and other challenges. All the self-buits, by the time they got to formation area, were fully decorated by the rules, an achievement missed by many of the commercial floats.

Give a cheer and raise a glass to the teams that collected LCFTRA's first ever Crown City Innovator Banner and the 32nd trophy since founding.

*Pam Wiedenbeck, Past President (2010 & 2011)*





# Floatique



What an amazing January 1st, 2022, Parade Day! A lovely day with snow on the mountains and the La Cañada Flintridge Float winning an award!

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers, financial supporters and everyone who came down under the bridge and made a purchase or a donation. There was additional enthusiasm at Memorial Park when the float made its final return home. We really appreciated all the incredible community support and from those of you out of the area and out of state.

We still have some "float goodies" and merchandise available to purchase and are expecting to have our website up and running very soon. You will be able to select items, make a credit card purchase and then we will get these items shipped out to you or we can meet you at the float site for a pickup.

Hope everyone had some time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. Thanks again to one and all for your amazing support!

*Michele Bottrell (818-248-5440), Chuck Hughes (818-790-9597), Floatique Co-Chairs*

## Rewards for Members!



LCFTRA Members: Invite friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to join us in keeping the tradition alive. Earn a \$5.00 gift certificate for referring a new member. We'll reward you for the first 10 referrals! The gift certificate is good for purchases at the Floatique. Contact Sarah Marshall at [Membership@lcftra.org](mailto:Membership@lcftra.org) or 818-790-2732 to make sure you get credit for your referrals.

## Membership Renewals

December 2021

### Rose Circle (\$800+)

Mark Kolokotronis  
Susan and Chuck Wolhaupter

### Benefactor (\$425)

Scott and Linda Deacon

### Parader (\$300)

Karin and Steven Ellis  
Nancy Kapec-Pittson and Glenn Pittson  
Victor and Alexandra Levine  
Nicole Drake—Road Scholar  
Jill Sekiguchi  
Peggy Hotaling

### Patron (\$150)

Cardy Coate  
Sharlyn French  
The Hemphill Family  
David Moffett  
William Rydan  
Wes and Jennifer Seastrom  
Joe and Lynne Thompson  
Diane and Stuart Williams

### Sustainer (\$75)

Dennis and Evelyn Carpenter  
Nancy Francis  
Alan and Rose Harris  
Jim and Cary Moore  
Carolyn Northern  
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Weiss

### Floater (\$35)

Patricia Anderson  
Arthur Beesley  
Aileen Braun  
Andrea and Dominick Cabalo  
Lola Dietrich  
Hara Melillo  
Adam Rahtz  
Carolyn Straddling

### Donations

Aileen Braun  
Dennis and Evelyn Carpenter  
Nancy Kapec-Pittson and Glenn Pittson  
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Weiss  
Susan and Chuck Wolhaupter

### **Membership Renewals:**

We will keep track of your renewal schedule for you. All members will receive email reminders of their membership renewal 30 days before their current membership expires. The email will contain a direct link for the renewal process online and allows payment by all major credit cards, PayPal, or by printing a form and mailing in a check.

Questions? Contact Sarah Marshall: Email [Membership@lcftra.org](mailto:Membership@lcftra.org) or call @ 818-790-2732.

### **New Memberships:**

Join online by clicking on this [New Member Signup](#) button. Using the online signup process is the easiest way to go and allows you to pay online (or by check).

**No email or internet access?:** If you prefer to not use the online options for new memberships or renewals, then print [this Mail-In Membership Form](#) and follow the instructions for mailing your information and check.

*Sarah Marshall, Membership Chair*

[Membership@lcftra.org](mailto:Membership@lcftra.org)

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### **Technical Support**

If you have technical issues signing in, you can contact our website provider's support folks toll free at 1-866-HLP-CLUB (457-2582) from 4:30 AM to 7:00 PM, Mon-Fri, Pacific time (they are located in Chicago). Or you can email them at [Support@clubexpress.com](mailto:Support@clubexpress.com) For all other LCFTRA questions or help, feel free to contact Rich Boccia at [VPAdmin@lcftra.org](mailto:VPAdmin@lcftra.org).

Thank you so much for your support. We are 100% donation supported and your membership/donations make the float possible. Hopefully the new website will make that continued support easy for you!

See you next month!

*Rich Boccia, VP - Administration*

[VPAdmin@lcftra.org](mailto:VPAdmin@lcftra.org)

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