



2015 South Pasadena Float Fact Sheet



- **Participant Name:** City of South Pasadena Tournament of Roses Committee
- **Participating Organization Information:** The South Pasadena Tournament of Roses Committee is a committee of the City. The all-volunteer organization receives only a portion of its funding through the local Chamber of Commerce, and relies on donations for over \$80,000 each year to participate in the Tournament of Roses. The City of South Pasadena holds the distinction of the oldest self-built float in the parade.
- **Special Interest Information (unique information about decorators, etc.):** The City of South Pasadena builds this float with an all-volunteer construction crew. Planning starts 14 months in advance, overlapping with the previous year's float. Construction begins around early June and by New Year's Eve, just about everyone in town – and many from around the world – have had a hand in creating our float!
- **Contact Name:** Paul Abbey, President, SPTOR
- **Address:**
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- **Float Theme:**
“Still Winning!”

- **How/Why was this theme chosen?**

The design for the oldest self-built float in the parade is open to a community-wide design contest. Our theme, “Still Winning!” was selected when an inspiring sketch depicting hope and triumph over breast cancer was submitted. The concept includes a pair of dragon boats racing towards the finish line with the bright pink breast cancer ribbon as a backdrop. The design concept was submitted by one of our decoration team members, Anita Scott. Anita is a breast cancer survivor, and just like all of the ladies featured on this float, has an incredible story of perseverance in the face of this often-times deadly disease.

When Anita submitted this design concept, it immediately drew the attention of all of us on the SPTOR design committee. The first thing we all noted was the huge pink ribbon in the design. Even in her black and white sketch, that ribbon stood out as the symbol of hope and solidarity amongst so many women afflicted with this disease. But we all wanted to know, what are the dragons all about? As Anita explained the significance of the dragon boats and about her team, it captured all of us in a sense of awe as her story unfolded. Anita explained that she and all of her breast cancer survivor teammates are on a multiple medal-winning dragon boat team from Long Beach, called the Los Angeles Pink Dragons. We all instantly looked at each other and said “Wow!” that’s a pretty powerful and inspiring story.

- **How does your theme relate to Parade theme?**

“Inspiring Stories” is the theme of the parade, and our inspiration was to complete the thought by imagining a hopeful, optimistic reaction to a common human condition: Perseverance and triumph over an often deadly disease process. Viewers will appreciate the notion that hopeful individuals with a positive outlook can team up and make the most of any situation and come out winning, such as when given a cancer diagnosis.

- **Significance of theme to the Participant:**

South Pasadena is a “can-do” community that thrives on volunteerism and community spirit as well as activism and teamwork to get the job done.

- **Number of Years in the Rose Parade:**

121 years (First entry 1893)

- **Float Builder’s Name:**

City of South Pasadena Tournament of Roses Committee
Self-built (Built and decorated entirely by volunteers from the City of South Pasadena)



- Information E-Mail addresses:

contact@sptor.org, construction@sptor.org

- Phone Numbers between Dec. 25, 2014 and Jan. 6, 2015:

Paul Abbey, SPTOR President Cell – 626-390-0584

Chris Colburn, SPTOR Vice President Cell 818-588-1824

Bob Abbey, Construction Chair, 626-710-2193

Janet Benjamin, Decoration Chair 818-800-2724

- Float Designer's Name:

Anita Scott's initial concept sketch with Richard Carlow & Eugenia Chen-Carlow illustrators for final rendering.

- Float Description:

The float depicts two teams of breast cancer survivors racing a pair of dragon boats towards the finish line with the bright pink breast cancer ribbon as a backdrop.

- Construction Information (Height/Width/Length):

Float Dimensions

Length - 45'

Width - 18'

Height – 24'

- Flowers & Dry Materials Used for Decorating:

The flowers that are incorporated on this entry are as follows. The ribbon will consist of Esparanza pink roses and the body of the ribbon will be macaroon and bougainvillea powdered. Each of the boats will have about 900 scales individually petaled with carnations. Additionally the lion boat will be accented with dragon fruit, oncidium orchids, pin cushion protea, yellow button mum, Voodoo roses, anthiriums and powdered bougainvillea. The dragon boat will be accented with coconut, "Yoko Ono" button mum, hybrid delphinium, green dendrobium orchids, anthirium, chayote squash, brussle sprouts, mung beans and tea roses.

- Where the flowers will be used and for what effect:

There will be a set of memorial paddles on the rear of the float that will have the names of the ladies whom have passed while on the Pink Dragons team. They will be decorated in hot pink carnation petals, nori, and poppy seeds.

The water will consist of iris, Cool Water roses, hydrangea, stock, statice, curly willow, carnations, china mums, misty blue, Million Star Gyp, dendrobium and phalaenopsis orchids and sweet rice. There will be 3 colors of iris and 2 colors of hydrangea to simulate the water.



- **Number of flowers used by type:**

There will be an estimated 10,000 roses on this entry with about 8000 in the ribbon and 2000 in the water. The water will consist of 9000 iris and 250 hydrangeas.

- **Unique Use of Decorating Materials:**

We tried to use as much whole flowers as possible. This is the most roses and iris we have used in recent history of an entry. There are 14 different colors of carnations that will be used and most of them will be on the boats.

- **Animation**

Each dragon boat will move forward, and back to depict boats advancing ahead of each other in a neck and neck, all out race towards the finish.

- **Innovations used in building this float:**

The City of South Pasadena float has run on propane since the early 1980's. We were "green" before it was cool!

- **Special Details about the Riders:**

Our riders, the Los Angeles Pink Dragons, are the first dragon boat team comprised solely of breast cancer survivors. Founded in 2003, the "Pinks" (as they affectionately call themselves) hail from all over Southern California and boast 37 members that range in age from their 30's to their 80's, two of them from right here in South Pasadena. They practice twice a week by hoisting their 500 to 800 pound boats from Mother's Beach in Long Beach and paddling out into the calm waters of Los Alamitos Bay. In addition to being extremely excited about riding in the 2015 Rose Parade, these incredible ladies participated in several races this past year, including the Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival in July and the International Breast Cancer Survivor Dragon Boat Festival this past October in Sarasota, Florida.

- **Other Event/Parade Participation:**

The float chassis typically takes a ride down Mission Street in the July 4th Festival of Balloons each year and participates in our annual "Cruz'n for Roses" Car Show as a static display and volunteer recruitment tool.

- **Social Media:**

Facebook: WWW.facebook.com/sprosefloat

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SPRoseFloat> or search @sprosefloat

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sprosefloat or search @sprosefloat