

I have been to every single Rose City Parade since 2003; I would have attended in 2002 but being born in November I missed it. Like the rest of the community, I also missed the 2020 Rose Festival Parade. It would be the first time in 17 years I missed this impactful community event.

The Rose Parade would be the one day of the year my Grandmother was able to get all 12 of her grandchildren together. We always had “our” spot on the corner of N Weidler & Vancouver Ave, coincidentally the same spot my great- grandfather took her, the same spot I hope to take my grandchildren one day. This community event has been vital to generations of my family and generations of many families all across Portland. I know having the Rose Festival back would benefit our community's physical and mental well- being. We live in a social world! Engaging and attending such a rich Portland Historical event can also reduce stress, anxiety and depression among my peers, my family and yours.

Having the Rose Festival back would instill hope in the community. The pandemic has been a hard time on everyone. With the cancelation of major events like the Rose Festival people have not had the opportunity to go out and engage socially. Hopefully with the re-opening of the parade, we can start engaging as a community again.

The Rose Festival is an event that represents Portland. Not only because Portland is the "Rose City" but because historically it has represented some of the most beautiful parts of why Portland is great since 1907. The rose parade is intertwined with Portland's values and hope, as the roses begin to bloom something in Portland's community does as well.

Attending and participating in the Rose Festival will improve the community's mental health. Being stuck inside has put a lot of stress on everyone, and some people haven't been able to spend time with their loved ones. Some people have only had work to look forward to or worse, have lost their jobs. Humans are social creatures and we need to interact with others, being by yourself to keep company this past year has been depressing. I think the Rose Festival can be one of those first events that bring that joy and hope to the community.

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III. Last but not least the Rose Festival is a FUN experience!

A. Having a reason to get out the house.

1. Writing on the sidewalk with chalk.

2. Listening to the music the as the band plays.

B. The feeling of setting out your chairs with the cool breeze and warm sun.

1. Smelling the food as you spend time with family and friends.

2. and Seeing the performers and floats go by.

Conclusion:

I. The Rose Festival will bring hope to the community mentally, physically, and emotionally. It will be a safe space to engage with others and have a good time.

II. Hope is a simple word. With a lot of meaning.

III. Much like the festival is a simple event that means a lot.

If granted the opportunity to be Rose Festival Princess I hope to see my grandmother and family filled with hope and pride on the corner of N Weidler & Vancouver Ave.