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The 'Carnival of Roses' represents all of Portland's splendor as a city and community. Each unique quality is a rose to be celebrated, from our landmark bridges and abundance of parks, to our community of artists, and legacy through events like the Rose Festival. Every day, we are honored to live in Portland, a city with so many wonderful attributes.

Living here has given me a unique perspective. Portlanders develop open minds by embracing creativity, and originality throughout our lives. As an artist, I feel especially fortunate to be involved in such a dynamic and nurturing community, where art can be viewed in galleries, coffee shops, and other venues.

We are also an environmentally conscious city, and a leader in sustainable living. Portland encourages action to keep our city green and beautiful as it grows. For these reasons, Portland is the city I love – a place that is truly my home.

And for a small city, we have accomplished so much. Our traditions like the Rose Festival have lasted for over a hundred years and drawn people from all over the country! We have many noteworthy qualities we consider roses of our city. Portland's official motto, 'the city that works', is evident in our progress. I have had firsthand experience in this as a volunteer in our community since I was eight years old. I currently volunteer through Multnomah County Library's Teen Council planning events - the library Summer Reading Program, the Oregon Humane Society, and MESD's Outdoor School Program where I've spent four years as a student leader. I also strive to be a leader in my school community through clubs like Cleveland's Black Student Union, of which I have been president for two years and an active member for all my four years of high school, among other activities.

I am a passionate and enthusiastic leader, and I owe much to the teachers, parents, coaches, and other mentors who have helped shape who I am today. I strive to make them proud by representing my city to the best of my ability in all my endeavors. We all show our Portland spirit either as individuals or united together. The phrase, 'Carnival of Roses' represents Portland spirit at its very best. We add to this spirit not only once a year with the Rose Festival, but every day, as we continue

to contribute to Portland's unique community.