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Inspiring. Tradition. Evolving. How do these three words describe the Rose Festival?

Initially I think of the Rose Festival as a Portland staple dating back all the way to 1906, to me it is the definition of tradition. It brings a positive impact on hundreds of thousands of lives annually, bringing smiles to the faces of both locals and guests.

Portland continues to be one of the leading cities in America for innovation, this is not surprising considering that we are one of the first cities in the world to have an electrically propelled trolley system, one of the key reasons the Rose Festival Parades was to showcase this great innovation and the beautiful roses that iconically represent our city. The city continues to showcase its innovation with connecting the different areas of Portland through transportation, once a divided community by the Willamette River has evolved into such a connected area with the trolley/street car system, the Max, pedestrian and biking bridges and automobiles. Similarly the Rose Festival continues the tradition by bringing together different neighborhoods into one festival family.

The Rose is a constant symbol for the Rose Festival. A red rose, is considered to mean love. My mom gave me this Claddagh ring for the Rose Festival application process, a Claddagh ring symbolizes Friendship, loyalty and love. This ring has been passed down in my family starting with my mom giving it to her friends who ended up becoming the Rose Festival queens for '86 and '89. The Rose Festival has been a staple tradition throughout Portland's history no matter what changes came to the Rose City, the city was still represented by the rose displaying Friendship Loyalty and Love through the many generations regardless of how the community evolves. I would love to have the honor to continue spreading my friendship loyalty and love across the City of Roses.